Trade and Industry

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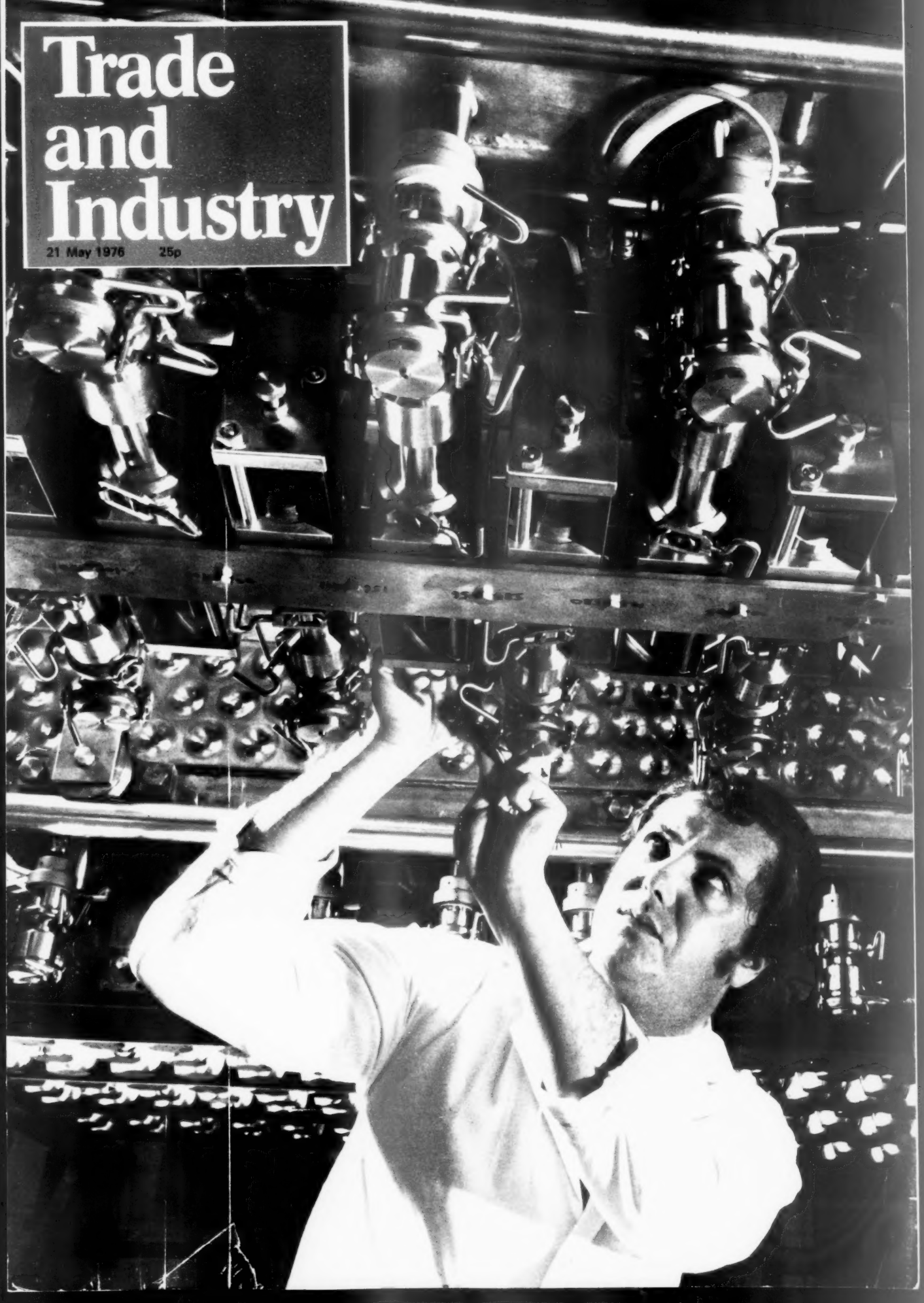

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Trade and Industry

21 May 1976

News from the Departments of Industry·Trade·Prices & Consumer Protection

Our cover shows a British export to Spain – the second of two identical 44-head automatic machines manufactured by Neumo of Newhaven, Sussex, installed in the Granada plant of Dhul SA. The machines fill aluminium pots with liquid ingredients to produce half-a-million Flan Dhul a day, a new convenience food.

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Home News

Industrial democracy must lead to greater efficiency: Edmund Dell

'The introduction of industrial democracy in industry must be compatible with improved industrial relations, the efficient management of companies and the maintenance of investment of risk capital in companies.' This was the theme of a speech this week by Edmund Dell, Secretary of State for Trade, to a conference of the Industrial Society in London.

He emphasised that the decision in principle to give workers a more effective voice in their organisations had already been taken. What was now under consideration by the Bullock Committee was how this could best be implemented.

'We want workers to have a more effective voice in their organisation. But we want them to recognise the extra responsibility for the efficiency of their organisation which goes with it.

'A splendid new framework for participation will be of little value if those who must make it work are not in a co-operative frame of mind.

'Industrial democracy, if it is to mean anything, must mean acceptance by employees of a share of responsibility for the success of an enterprise, a success to be measured, among other things, by its profitability, its ability to invest and expand, its competitive power.

'Employees and their trade unions will need to equip themselves for their new role. There may be a need for consultancy services and proper training facilities to help them to develop their understanding of the industry or firm in which they work and to use the information that will become available to them. I know that many trade union leaders feel that many of their members are not yet ready to play a full and effective role in the field of industrial democracy.

'There are those who say that we are making the job of management more difficult.

'But, without reform, it could become infinitely more difficult. Everyone's role is changing and nothing stands still. The prize of industrial harmony makes the effort needed to bring about real participation very much worth while.

'No one should think that they must wait for Bullock. Advance in the field of industrial democracy need not await legislation. Management and workers in every enterprise should be striving together to strengthen reasonableness and drive out bloodymindness on both sides.

'Management must provide enough information, and proper opportunities for building partnership. Unions must begin to make a greater contribution to the enterprise by extending their traditional role of safeguarding their members' interests into the positive promotion of their members' real earning power, not in paper money which loses its value month by month but by real increases in productivity, efficiency and service given to the customer.'

Mr. Dell referred to developments in the establishment of industrial democracy in other EEC countries and to work by the EEC Commission.

'Some commentators tend to give the impression that we are the only country looking seriously at the question of industrial democracy. This is not so. Some countries have already gone further than we have so far done and some of them have a rather better economic record than have we; others are only now starting to consider the subject. But more and more countries are recognising that workers must be brought into the decision-making process if they are to realise their full potential.'

Planning agreement discussions with first three major nationalised industries

Eric Varley, Secretary of State for Industry, announced in the House of Commons the names of the first three of the major nationalised industries which will be entering into discussions with the Government with a view to concluding Planning Agreements. They will be British Airways, the British Steel Corporation and the National Coal Board. Mr. Varley said that when a Planning Agreement has been concluded a statement to that effect will be laid before the House.

This announcement follows Mr. Varley's statement on 8 April, during the Budget debate, which reaffirmed the Government's commitment to the concept of Planning Agreements, and the announcement on 13 April of the first eight companies which have agreed to enter into discussions.

The present announcement is in line with the Government's undertaking in the White Paper *The Regeneration of British Industry*, that the major nationalised industries would fall within the scope of the Planning Agreements system. More details can be found in the White Paper (Cmnd. 5710, August 1974), and the discussion document *The Contents of a Planning Agreement* published by the Department of Industry in 1975.

Four advance factories for Merseyside

A 24-acre site off Speke Hall Avenue, Liverpool, has been bought by the Department of Industry for development as a new Government industrial estate. The land was formerly owned by Dunlop Ltd. and is adjacent to the company's Speke factory.

Four advance factories allocated to Merseyside in programmes already announced will be built on the new estate. These units are one of 25,000 sq. ft, one of 15,000 sq. ft, and two of 10,000 sq. ft. Building work is planned to start at the end of July.

New Industrial Director for North West Region

The Department of Industry announces the appointment of George Moore as Regional Industrial Director, North West Region.

His main tasks will be the promotion of industrial development in the region and the assessment of applications from industry for selective financial assistance under the Industry Act. He will work in close co-operation with Noel Belam, Regional Director for the North West, and be based at the Department's regional office in Manchester.

He is expected to take up his appointment on 1 June and succeeds Arthur Ward who has left to take up a post with the National Enterprise Board.

Mr. Moore, who is 52, recently relinquished his appointment as group managing director of Spear and Jackson International Ltd., the Sheffield-based manufacturers of hand tools. He has had a broadly based career in industry and commerce. After qualifying in engineering and economics at Cardiff and Hull Universities, he spent ten years in engineering management in the UK and abroad. He then joined Urwick Orr and Partners as a management consultant and later joined the Burton Group.

August price code changes to boost investment and jobs

Changes in the price code are to be made in August as a stimulus to industry. The object is to assist industry to increase investment, which will in turn create more jobs.

A consultative document on price control is to be issued in June, and the amended code to be introduced in August will be effective for a year.

Continuance of price control beyond 1977 is to be discussed by the Government with the Confederation of British Industry, the TUC and other bodies such as the Retail Consortium.

The Prime Minister revealed the price code changes when speaking at the CBI annual dinner on Tuesday. They would include:

1 Additional provisions to help stimulate 'investment in our own economy and in jobs for our own people'.

2 Changes to help offset the effects of inflation on the depreciation of assets and stock appreciation.

3 A review of the productivity deduction.

4 Other steps designed to deal with 'the way in which the price code can penalise firms when their output expands or when they cut costs'.

5 Alteration of the way in which firms are categorised at present in order to take account of inflation and to ease the administration of the controls.

6 Technical changes designed to simplify operations of controls.

'Pay restraint and price control, in the eyes of the ordinary people of this country, go together,' said Mr. Callaghan. 'But ordinary people also know that industry should be able to earn sufficient profit on its investment to protect jobs and to make much greater investment worthwhile.'

Manufacturing holds key to economic prosperity: Eric Varley

Achievement of our economic goals is determined to a major extent by the performance of manufacturing industry, Eric Varley, Secretary of State for Industry, told the annual dinner of the Electronic Engineering Association in London last week.

'It is manufacturing industry to which we look as a key source of technical advance, economies of scale and increased productivity,' Mr. Varley said. 'It is mainly to improvements in this sector that we look for an improvement in our rate of economic growth.

'Above all it is manufacturing industry on which we chiefly rely for the attainment of our economic goals – full employment, a satisfactory balance of payments and rising standards of living. This is why improving the performance of manufacturing industry is our top priority.'

Mr. Varley went on to say that the Government had given real force to its commitment that in the immediate future industrial development must take precedence over private consumption and the social priorities which make large claims on national resources. This had been done in a number of ways.

'In relation to public expenditure, not by massive cuts that would inevitably have damaged a number of industries already hit by recession, but by an effective restraint on its growth so as to increasingly free resources for investment and exports.

'And in the April Budget, which many

Counter-inflation impresses the world

World press reaction to the counter-inflation policy announced earlier this month has been mainly favourable

West Germany

'The English disease is fading . . . Britain, the sick man of Europe, seems to be on the way to recovery.' *Neue Rhein Zeitung*

'Is Britain about to become the model in the competition for the smallest wage increases in the West? It's an unaccustomed thought when you think that a year ago wages and prices were increasing by 25-30 per cent . . . Britain obtained success with the anti-inflation policy it introduced last summer on the edge of the abyss. It is not belittling this success to say that calming down wages and prices alone will not be enough to bring Britain out of its difficulties.' *Frankfurter Rundschau*

'The agreement between the government and the trade union leadership is certainly a most important step, but not the last. Until the special congress of the TUC in mid-June, which will have the last word, the attempt of the extremist wing of the trade unions to get a majority against the incomes policy may prolong the damage which the decision reached far earlier than necessary was designed to delay: the pound, whose stability is really the issue, can still easily be upset.' *Sueddeutsche Zeitung*

Belgium

'The 4.5 per cent ceiling is very close to the objectives of the Chancellor of the Exchequer as he had set them out in his budget a few weeks ago . . . the unions' sacrifice is the greater as they had already last year accepted a £6 ceiling on pay rises . . . if the Treasury's figures are correct, trade union restraint should make it possible to cut back inflation to 5 or 6 per cent by Christmas of next year.' *La Libre Belgique*

Canada

'Infinitely better than any Briton in his right mind would have had a right to expect two years ago . . . restraint can be sold if enough effort is made to ensure that it is fair and seen to be fair. The real betrayal of the workers may not be in accepting restraint but in rejecting it.' *The Toronto Globe and Mail*

'It hasn't been common over the past decade or so for anyone to look for examples of good economic planning in Britain. But recent experience illustrates it is possible for people of common sense and good will to reach a consensus.' *Toronto Star*

United States

'The bold new wage control policy announced in London signals a determined effort to fight down the nation's high inflation rate . . .' *Christian Science Monitor*

'. . . his negotiations achieved a union wage accord that was a needed early triumph for Prime Minister James Callaghan's government.' *Time Magazine*

'The wage agreement between the Government and the trade unions should give recovery a mighty boost. The world has been presented with a responsible workforce accepting continued loss in purchasing power for the good of the nation and higher employment.' *Baltimore Sun*

Irish Republic

'Britain appears to have emerged victorious from yet another battle in its prolonged war against inflation and recession . . . Following the successful implementation of the £6 pay limit, this latest move places the British economy firmly on the road to recovery.' *Irish Times*

Sweden

'There must now be a good chance that the economic haemophilia which results from inflation can be brought under control within a reasonable time. To have brought the formerly incorrigible unions to appreciate what the situation required is a great triumph for the Callaghan government.' *Svenska Dagbladet*

Japan

'Many observers believe that the government's desire to control inflation has been fully met by the new plan, which is quite a bit more strict than the present limit of £6 a week.' *Nihon Keizai*

'The new limit is less than half the current £6 limit and is one of the tightest restrictions among the advanced countries.' *Yomiuri*

newspapers the next day described as "a Budget for industry". In the Budget we have, for example, the continuation of stock relief and of the present system of capital allowances on fixed investment, which means that substantially the whole of any profits which a manufacturing firm re-invests in its business – whether in fixed or in working capital – will effectively be relieved from corporation tax.

'Additional funds were also set aside for new industry schemes, to help overcome the problems of particular industries and so improve their competitive position. The schemes introduced last autumn for the ferrous foundry, machine tool and clothing industries are already having a valuable impact on the sectors concerned. Other schemes or preliminary studies are being considered with further industries.

'We have also introduced the accelerated projects scheme to encourage industry to bring forward significant deferred investment projects. This has proved to be a considerable stimulus to industrial investment, and so far assistance of £35 million has been offered to bring forward investment of about £250 million. The scheme is still open.'

Consumer Credit Act: group licences for solicitors

Group licences are to be granted under the Consumer Credit Act 1974 to the Law Society (in respect of solicitors in England and Wales), the Law Society of Scotland and the Incorporated Law Society of Northern Ireland.

Each group licence will apply to all solicitors who hold a practising certificate from one of the three societies and will permit them to carry on the business of consumer credit, credit brokerage, debt adjusting, debt counselling and debt collecting where these activities arise in the course of a solicitor's practice. Each licence becomes effective on 3 August and runs for three years.

Clearance of merger proposals

Shirley Williams, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, has decided, on the information at present before her, not to refer the following mergers to the Monoplies and Mergers Commission under the provisions of the Fair Trading Act 1973: Manbre and Garton Ltd./Hugh Baird and Sons Ltd.; Metal Box Ltd./Venesta International Packaging Ltd.; Chloride Group Ltd./Industrial Instruments Ltd.; EMI Ltd./'Accuratool' Business of Dowding and Doll Ltd. She has also decided not to refer the proposed merger between British-American Tobacco Company Ltd. and Tobacco Securities Trust Company Ltd.

Fire hazards in furniture: report published

Upholstered furniture should be safer from fire in future. The Department of Prices and Consumer Protection has asked furniture manufacturers to take account of the findings contained in a report published on 13 May of Government-sponsored research into the fire hazards of plastic materials used in furniture and furnishings.

Replying to a Parliamentary question from Ioan Evans (Aberdare), on 13 May, John Fraser, Minister of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, said: 'The report on the third and final year of this research, undertaken by the Rubber and Plastics Research Association under the direction of the Fire Research Station, is being published today by the Building Research Establishment. My Department has asked the British Furniture Manufacturers Federated Associations to recommend to their members that they should take the findings in this report into account in deciding on the composition and design of the upholstered furniture they produce. Until suitable fire test methods become available as a result of further research now being undertaken, it is not practicable to impose regulatory controls on the sale of furniture. The report is, however, being studied in depth with our expert advisers on flammability to see whether any additional interim guidance is possible.'

The last year of the three-year research programme was concerned mainly with fires in furnished rooms. Fires involving sitting/dining room furniture, under well-ventilated conditions, showed that traditional furniture burned less rapidly and produced less smoke than modern furniture, though it was more susceptible to smouldering.

Experiments in the RAPRA environmental fire test facility indicated that the flammability of a modern suite containing flexible upholstery foams was reduced to resemble that of traditional furniture by the substitution of fabrics and by incorporating suitable interlining materials. In bedroom fires modern furnishings burned more rapidly than traditional but improvements were obtainable by the careful selection of bedding materials. Intensively furnished rooms such as a modern bed-sitter had a greater risk of rapid fire spread. A similar pattern was found in a fire in a simulated hotel bar, where the number and close proximity of seating and small tables enabled fire to spread rapidly. Modern office furniture based on structural foam burned more rapidly than traditional and the structural foams in this furniture gave a severe smoke problem even after the fire temperature had decreased considerably from its maximum.

The research has thus fulfilled the Government's hopes of identifying those aspects of furniture design and choice of materials that offer fire risk, and the degree to which they do so, but it does not yet enable specific guidance to be given in detail. To do so it must be possible to quantify the risk from a large selection of combinations of materials and design, and this task requires the development of suitable fire tests.

The Department of the Environment's Property Services Agency is sponsoring a further phase of research concerned with the development of standard tests, which will enable the ignitability and flammability of any item of upholstered furniture to be determined.

The report has been published as a Building Research Current Paper CP21/76. Copies are available, free of charge for single copies, from the Distribution Unit, Building Research Establishment, Garston and RAPRA, Shawbury, Shropshire SY4 4NR.

Implementation of the Hallmarking Convention

An order has been made under the Hallmarking Act 1973 implementing the international Convention on the Control and Marking of Articles of Precious Metals. In a written reply to a question from Ioan Evans (Aberdare), John Fraser, Minister of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, said:

'The Government ratified the Convention on 1 April 1976. I have accordingly made an Order under the Hallmarking Act 1973, implementing its provisions on 1 June 1976. From that date articles bearing Convention marks applied by assay offices in Austria, Finland, Switzerland and Sweden can be described as being made of gold, silver and platinum, without undergoing further hallmarking in the United Kingdom. Those countries will give similar treatment to articles bearing similar marks applied by United Kingdom assay offices. Silver articles of a fineness of only 800 or 830 may not, however, be described as being made of silver in the UK unless they are intended for export.

'This is the first time that the United Kingdom has recognised hallmarks applied in other countries.'

With certain limited exceptions, the Hallmarking Act 1973 makes it an offence for a trader to describe an article as being made of gold, silver or platinum, unless it has been assayed and hallmarked by a UK assay office. Imported articles have therefore to be hallmarked before they can be sold in the UK.

The Hallmarking Act 1973 enables the Secretary of State to make orders designating marks as approved hallmarks for the purposes of the Act, when they are applied by assay offices overseas in accordance with an international Convention or treaty, and authorising UK assay offices to apply such marks.

The proposed EEC directive to harmonise hallmarking laws within the community does not preclude membership of the Convention. The Government hopes that any directive adopted by the community will be as close as possible to the technical provisions of the Convention.

Your part in Britain's industrial revival

Re-think your ideas about new investment, and these incentives could transform your business prospects.

The Areas for Expansion cover a large part of the country where government investment incentives are quietly transforming the pattern of Britain's industry.

Some parts of the Areas are traditional industrial centres with new growth opportunities and some parts have had, up to now, relatively little industrial development. All offer considerable scope for expansion.

Manufacturing firms wishing to expand in these Areas, or move to them, can qualify for the following investment aid:

1. Capital grants of 20% or 22% for new buildings and, in many places, for new plant and machinery.
2. Loans on favourable terms *or* interest relief grants.
3. Factories with rent-free periods of up to 2 years; low rentals; options to purchase at favourable terms.
4. Removal grants: up to 80% towards costs of moving into the Areas.

From the Secretary of State for Industry:

The Government attaches great importance to new investment which will help to reduce the United Kingdom's regional problems. The Areas for Expansion offer great opportunities for businesses large and small to enter a new phase of expansion. I hope that many more businesses in a position to benefit from the assistance available from the Government will come forward.

Eric Varley

For full details about how to claim your share of the investment aid now available, send the coupon below for our two free booklets, or telephone your nearest Industrial Expansion Team. With their extensive local knowledge, they can tell you in confidence about the investment incentives which may apply to your company in their area.

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West Midlands. Birmingham, tel: 021-632 4111

South West. Tel: Plymouth 21891 (STD code 0752) or Bristol 291071 (STD code 0272)

London & South East. London, tel: 01-603 2060 Ext. 221

Eastern Region. London, tel: 01-603 2070 Ext. 359/360

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Position in Company
TI 21/5/G
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The Areas for Expansion

ENCIRCLE TI 25 ON PAGE 519 FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Price Commission interventions during April

During April the Price Commission rejected 16 notifications of price increases from manufacturing and service companies in Categories 1 and 2. In another 33 cases the companies concerned withdrew their notifications of intended increases and in 69 cases the extent of the increases was reduced by the Commission. The lists of firms affected are shown below.

Since the beginning of Stage 4 on 20 December 1974, the Commission has rejected a total of 229 notifications and modified 1,098. A total of 370 notifications were withdrawn.

During April, following discussions with the Price Commission, four distributors in Category 2 agreed to make price reductions amounting to £1.05 million in order to eliminate excess gross or net profits as revealed in their periodic returns.

Following inspection of records kept by enterprises in Category 3, the Commission's Regional Offices secured the agreement of 202 distributors, 44 manufacturers, 47 service enterprises, nine professional enterprises and six construction enterprises to make price reductions amounting to £7.08 million in order to eliminate excess gross or net profits. In addition, the Regional Offices secured a total of 51 individual voluntary price reductions following investigation of complaints about price increases.

Rejections

Company	Product	% increase sought
Category I		
ICI Ltd.	Vinyl chloride monomer	10.05
Kraft Foods Ltd.	Whole range of products	Not quantified
Monsanto Ltd.	Maleic anhydride	2.13
Category II		
Barker Ellis Silver Co. Ltd.	Silver products	15.00
Belfast Steamship Co. Ltd.	Ferry services: Ardrossan/Belfast, Ardrossan/Larne	6.58
British Reinforced Concrete Engineering Co. Ltd.	All welded steel mesh and bar reinforcement activities	9.80
R. F. Brookes (Leicester) Ltd.	Meat pies and pasta products	2.65
Bursgreen (Durham) Ltd.	Machine tools	8.90
Crane Ltd.	Grey iron and cadet valves	14.60
	Cast iron and steel valves for water processing industry and marine valves	12.30
Effinghsm Steel Works Ltd.	Cold rolled steel strip	11.80
SKF Tools (UK) Ltd.	Whole range of products	6.00
Swan National Ltd.	Self drive vehicle hire	18.82
West Kent Cold Storage Co. Ltd.	Storage prices	10.00
Wolseley Webb Ltd.	Electric fencing equipment, rotary cultivators, land clearance machines, rough grass-cutters and lawnmowers	5.00
Yate Foundry Ltd.	Iron castings	9.00

Withdrawals

Company	Product	% increase sought
Category I		
BP Chemicals International Ltd.	Acrylonitrile	8.60
	Speciality chemical products	Not quantified
British Railways Board (Shipping and International Services Division)	Harbour dues, handling charges and miscellaneous charges	7.90
Burton's Gold Medal Biscuits Ltd.	Biscuits	0.76
ICI Ltd.	Nonylphenol ethoxylates	43.57
International Sports Co. Ltd.	Tennis and squash balls and sundry sports equipment	3.00
Pedigree Petfoods Ltd.	Prepared petfoods	4.49
Ross Foods Ltd.	Fish and meat products	0.25
Simpson, Wright and Lowe Ltd.	Hosiery and half-hose	4.69
Smiths of Maddiston Ltd.	General freight transport services	3.00
Spillers Farm Feeds Ltd.	Animal feedingstuffs	3.95
Van den Berghs and Jurgens Ltd.	Margarines and compounds	4.30
	Vegetable oils and fats	0.63
Wilkinson Sword Ltd.	Razor blades	5.05
Category II		
Austin Hoy and Co. Ltd.	Coal cutting chains and components	12.42
J. C. Bamford Excavators Ltd.	JCB 808 360° excavator	5.13
Barnett and Foster Ltd.	Essences, compounds and bottled squashes	2.59
Bradley and Co. Ltd.	Metal housewares	7.79
British Rolling Mills Ltd.	Cold rolled steel strip and bright steel bars	5.64
Eric Britton and Co. Ltd.	Bias binding, etc., cuff linings, trouser waistbanding, hook and eye tapes	10.00
Burgess Industrial Silencing Ltd.	Standard ranges of silencing and general acoustical equipment products	25.00
The Coca-Cola Export Corp.	Carbonated beverages (12 oz cans)	2.70
Crane Ltd.	Bronze valve fittings	5.30
Effingham Steel Works Ltd.	Cold rolled strip processing	13.20
Elwell Sections Ltd.	Cold rolled sections	35.50
Firth Carpets Ltd.	Carpets	7.13
Gravity-Randall Ltd.	Timber and aluminium ladders, metal wheel barrows and associated products	10.00
Thomas William Lench Ltd.	Bolts and nuts	5.50
Rockwell Maudslay Ltd.	Axles and related spares	9.39
Rolls Royce Motors Ltd.	Foundry and machining charges	7.13
Sheepbridge Equipment Ltd.	Stone crushers and tile presses	7.00
Sign Electronics Ltd.	Language laboratory equipment	Not quantified
R. R. Whitehead and Bros. Ltd.	Roll felt goods	13.47

Modifications

Company	Product	% increase sought	% reduction made (percentage points)
Category I			
BP Chemicals International Ltd.	N-butyl acetate, iso butyl acetate, diacetone alcohol, hexylene glycol, isophorone, methyl ethyl ketone	8.52	5.84
W. Brealey and Co. Ltd.	Wire	8.05	0.20
British Gypsum Ltd.	Plasterboard, plasterboard derivatives and plasters	7.53	0.26
Brook Motors Ltd.	Electric motors, switchgear and control gear	6.30	0.09
Butlins Ltd.	Accommodation and associated charges at 'Sunshine' holiday centre	9.12	0.14
Firth Co. Ltd.	Wire and wire products	5.85	0.03
Girling Ltd.	Braking, actuation and suspension equipment for the transport industry	2.77	0.11
Glynwed Bathroom and Kitchen Products Ltd.	Cast iron sanitary ware	7.86	0.44
J. J. Habershon and Sons Ltd.	Cold rolled strip	15.00	0.50
ICI Ltd.	Aromatic products	10.10	0.62
	Cracker products	9.30	0.57
	Dimethylaniline	19.70	0.09
	Ethylene oxide and glycols	6.94	0.38
Johnson and Nephew (Ambergate) Ltd.	Wire and wire products	6.47	0.04
Johnson and Nephew (Manchester) Ltd.	Wire and wire products	11.01	2.71
Nairn Flooring Ltd.	Linoleum	6.00	1.83
Perkins Engine Co. Ltd.	Diesel engines, gasoline engines, related parts and spares, extras, etc.	3.00	0.18

Patent Office publications for industry

The Patent Office offers industry a wide range of publications. These include the Official Journal (Patents), the Trade Marks Journal, British Patent Specifications, Illustrated Abridgements of Patent Specifications, Reports of Patent, Design and Trade Mark Cases, and 50-year subject matter file lists of British Patent Specifications. Details of these and other publications may be obtained by post from Sale Branch, the Patent Office, Orpington, Kent BR5 3RD; or by personal application at the Public Sale Counter of the Patent Office, 25 Southampton Buildings, London, WC2.

Company	Product	% increase sought	% reduction made (percentage points)
RHM Bakeries (NI) Ltd.	Bread	19.12	0.85
RHM Flour Mills Ltd.	Bakery and similar flours	3.58	0.12
Rediffusion Ltd.	Music services	15.60	1.66
Ruston Diesels Ltd.	Diesel engine spares	6.29	0.30
Shell Chemicals UK Ltd. and Shell Finance Services Ltd.	Complete range of manufactured chemical products	7.82	2.05
Smedley-HP Foods Ltd.	Sauce products	3.07	0.06
Spillers-French Baking Ltd.*	Bread	9.40	0.50
Tube Investments (Chesterfield) Ltd.	Cold and hot drawn tubing, gas cylinders and extruded products	4.27	0.03
Trust Houses Forte Catering Ltd.	Drink, food and hotel accommodation	4.50	0.02
Whitbread and Co. Ltd.	Wines, spirits and cider for wholesale distribution	0.37	0.02
Wickman Machine Tool Manufacturing Co. Ltd.	Multi spindle automatic lathes	30.00	3.91
Category II			
Adam Bros. and Burnley Ltd.	Press work	9.94	3.50
Amplivox Hearing Centres Ltd.	Hearing aids and sundries	2.40	0.24
Armstrong Patent Co. Ltd.	Telescopic shock absorbers, struts, silencers, etc.	3.45	0.07
Isaac Andrews and Sons Ltd.	Flour products (bakers' flour)	1.58	0.40
Armco Ltd.	Small diameter tube	4.54	0.12
Bestobell Valves Ltd.	Industrial valves and fittings and non-ferrous castings	9.06	2.89
British Rolling Mills Ltd.	Bright steel bars	8.84	0.11
David Brown Gear Industries Ltd.	Steel	9.16	0.08
Bruntons (Musselburgh) Ltd.	Roping wire	11.75	0.84
Carr's Flour Mills Ltd.	Flour	6.45	4.92
C. M. Steel Mills Ltd.	Cold rolled steel strip	17.20	0.07
Dowty Electrics Ltd.	Specialised aircraft and industrial electrical and electronic equipment	7.70	1.36
Ductile Cold Mill Ltd.	Steel strip	19.07	0.44
Duncan, Flockhart and Co. Ltd.	'Sea-Legs' preparations	72.10	13.60
Durham Chemicals Ltd.	Plasticisers	5.71	1.88
Fidelity Radio Ltd.	Radios, unit audios, record players	11.00	0.98
P. C. Henderson Ltd.	Sliding door gear and packed set	4.58	0.41
	One piece single garage doors	4.60	0.68
	Other garage doors, including Double Dolphin and Dolphin	7.04	1.17
Inveresk Paper Co. Ltd.	Paper and board products	9.40	0.68
Izal Ltd.	Rozalex products	7.95	0.21
L. R. Industries Ltd.	Latex household and industrial gloves	7.70	0.65
A. H. Leach and Co. Ltd.	Specialist photographic services	10.62	3.06
Macfarlan Smith Ltd.	Morphine, alkaloid, codeine, diamorphine, apomorphine, etc.	96.57	7.79
Metal Mouldings Ltd.	Suspended ceiling sections, aluminium extrusions, plastic fillers, cold rolled sections	15.00	3.00
Monmore Tubes Ltd.	Welded tubes	7.29	0.05
	Flo coat steel tubes	12.26	0.07
John Morrell and Co. Ltd.	Canned Irish stew and mixed vegetables	10.77	0.20
Ranco Motors Ltd.	Electric motors	5.00	1.61
Scott Bader Co. Ltd.	Polyester resins	11.07	8.04
Singer Co. (UK) Ltd.	Industrial sewing machines, motors, parts and accessories	24.20	1.68
Samuel Smith Old Brewery (Tadcaster) Ltd.	Beer and lager	6.22	0.01
Leonard Stace Ltd.	Coated and laminated papers	10.70	0.43
Stanley Power Tools Ltd.	Power tools accessories and spares	5.08	0.09
Steel Nut and Joseph Hampton Ltd.	Bright drawn steel	10.35	0.33
Sterling Health Products Ltd.	Milk of Magnesia liquid	7.82	0.19
E. Timm and Son Ltd.	Flour	3.08	0.23
Tungstone Products Ltd.	Plante cells	6.52	0.11
Welwyn Electric Ltd.	Electronic components (resistors, integrated circuits, etc.)	4.58	0.78
Willeys of Exeter Ltd.	Iron and non-ferrous castings	7.18	2.00
Wilson King Ltd.	Flour	6.74	0.12

* The company has announced that this increase has not been implemented in full.

Constructive atmosphere at fifth session of British-Soviet joint commission

In an atmosphere described as businesslike and constructive, the fifth session of the permanent British-Soviet intergovernmental commission for co-operation in the fields of applied science, technology, trade and economic relations came to a close in London on 13 May, when the following communique was issued:

The fifth session of the permanent intergovernmental British-Soviet commission for co-operation in the fields of applied science, technology, trade and economic relations (the joint commission) took place in London from 11-13 May 1976. The United Kingdom delegation was led by the Rt. Hon. Edmund Dell, Secretary of State for Trade, who presided. The Soviet delegation was led by Deputy Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR, Chairman of the State Committee of the Council of Ministers of the USSR for Science and Technology, V. A. Kirillin.

The joint commission noted with satisfaction that the positive changes in British-Soviet relations following the talks at the highest level in Moscow in February 1975 had encouraged the development of mutually advantageous co-operation between the United Kingdom and the USSR in the fields of trade and economic relations, applied science and technology.

As the present session of the joint commission was the first to follow the signing of the final act of the conference on security and co-operation in Europe on 1 August 1975, both sides noted the resolve of their two governments, together with the other participating states, to implement fully all the provisions of the final act.

Since the fourth session of the joint commission, trade and economic links had been further developed and the turnover of trade between the two countries had increased during 1975 to £618 million (959 million roubles). The value of British exports to the Soviet Union had almost doubled in 1975.

The joint commission continued to attach importance to achieving further increases in trade and improvements in its balance and structure.

The joint commission noted with satisfaction that a number of contracts had been concluded and that negotiations in most of the fields of co-operation defined in the long term programme of economic and industrial co-operation were under way including in particular in the chemical and petrochemical industries; the aviation industry; the oil industry; light industry, including the textile industry; and the mining and engineering industries.

The joint commission expressed satisfaction that a number of co-operation projects in addition to those listed in the long term programme were now being considered, including:

equipment for enterprises in the ferrous metallurgy industry;

complete equipment for the production of compound fertilisers and also plant protection chemicals;

equipment for the construction of offshore drilling platforms;

industrial gas turbines and compressors for gas pumping;

television broadcasting and studio equipment.

The joint commission expressed the view that, if agreement could be reached by the companies and organisations of both countries on technical and commercial conditions, contracts could be concluded by the end of this year for the supply of British equipment for a series of co-operation projects which could lead to a significant expansion of trade between the United Kingdom and the Soviet Union in the near future.

The two delegations studied questions connected with co-operation in projects on a compensation basis, and noted the importance of developing this form of long term co-operation which could in certain cases contribute to a fuller use of the technical, industrial and natural resources of both

Co-chairmen of British-Soviet joint commission : Academician Vladimir Kirillin (left) and Edmund Dell.

countries. It was emphasised however that a degree of flexibility would need to be shown by both sides in the negotiation of individual projects.

The joint commission welcomed the progress made in establishing contacts and in defining possible areas of co-operation for the participation of Soviet organisations in the construction in the United Kingdom of industrial projects, including those within programmes for the development of the nationalised sectors of British industry. It was recognised that such co-operation would create a basis for increasing Soviet exports of machinery and equipment to the United Kingdom.

The joint commission expressed the wish that British and Soviet firms and organisations should endeavour to find new fields for mutually advantageous economic and industrial co-operation. It welcomed the significant increase in missions which had taken place during the past year and agreed that where necessary the exchange of further missions should be encouraged.

The joint commission noted the important role of relevant economic and commercial information, and of improved contacts, in the development of trade and of economic and industrial co-operation. It was agreed that the Soviet 10th five-year plan would create favourable opportunities for an increase in trade between the two countries.

The joint commission considered in detail questions relating to the present state of and prospects for scientific and technological co-operation and also the progress made in fulfilling the programme for scientific and technological co-operation for a 10-year period. It approved the work done by both sides in carrying out the decisions of the fourth session of the joint commission which took place in May 1975 and noted that in the subsequent period co-operation had been developed successfully.

The joint commission noted with approval that in almost all of the subjects listed in the programme direct contacts had been established between institutions and organisations on both sides.

It approved the continued exchanges in fundamental and applied sciences, particularly in radio-astronomy, high temperature plasma physics, synchrotron radiation, heat and mass transfer and the proposed new exchanges in optical astronomy.

It was noted that a number of subjects in the programme for scientific and technological co-operation were covered by British-Soviet working groups. The commission reviewed the activities of the working groups during the past year and noted that their work was proceeding successfully.

Both delegations attached particular importance to co-operation in those areas of science and technology which would further the development of trade, economic and industrial co-operation to the mutual benefit of both countries. The joint commission noted that, with the signature of agreements on co-operation between Ferranti, ICI and BP and the state committee for science and technology of the USSR, there were now a total of 13 agreements. The joint commission supported this activity and noted its significance in promoting scientific and technological contacts which should lead to closer industrial and commercial co-operation.

In the field of environmental protection the joint commission approved the continuing activities of the joint committee on co-operation in the field of environmental protection and the programme of co-operation, including the holding of joint symposia, which had been drawn up by that committee.

It was noted with satisfaction that the necessary arrangements for implementation of the Anglo-Soviet agreement on co-operation in medicine and public health had now been finalised and a programme of co-operation had been approved.

The joint commission approved the exchange of delegations in the field of nuclear engineering which had taken place since the fourth session, and noted that there were good prospects for scientific, technological and economic co-operation in this field.

The joint commission welcomed the desire of both sides to see wide ranging co-operation in the development of agriculture and associated industries and noted with approval the intention to exchange delegations in the near future.

The joint commission noted that, since its last session, mutually advantageous co-operation in all fields had developed significantly, and that new levels of activity had been reached. Both sides expressed their intention to promote the continuation of this trend.

It was agreed to hold a review of progress in implementing the two co-operation programmes in London at the end of 1976, when recommendations for additions to them would be considered.

The joint commission decided to hold its next session in Moscow in 1977.

The fifth session of the joint commission took place in a businesslike, constructive atmosphere and in a spirit of mutual respect and understanding. The exchange of views which took place during the course of the session confirmed the mutual desire of both sides for the further development and deepening of co-operation between them in the fields of applied science, technology, trade and economic relations on the basis of mutual advantage, and contributed to the strengthening of friendly relations between the United Kingdom and the USSR.

During the course of the work of the joint commission, the head of the Soviet delegation, Deputy Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR, Mr. V. A. Kirillin, was received by the Prime Minister, the Rt. Hon. James Callaghan MP, and met and had conversations with the Secretary of State for Industry, the Rt. Hon. Eric Varley MP, and the Secretary of State for Energy, the Rt. Hon. Tony Benn MP.

Carriage by sea of dangerous goods

Amendment number three of the second edition of the report of the Department of Trade Standing Advisory Committee on the Carriage of Dangerous Goods in Ships (the Blue Book) has been published by HM Stationery Office (price 70p net).

The amendment contains a new section dealing with the carriage of dangerous goods in freight containers which implements recommendations in the International Maritime Dangerous Goods Code. The amendment also contains a complete revision of Class 7 – radioactive substances – based upon the principles of the International Atomic Energy Agency's Regulations for the safe transport of radioactive materials, 1973 revised edition.

Datel terminals over 40,000

Data communication services provided by the Post Office continue to maintain a healthy growth. Latest figures show 40,654 Datel terminals in service at the end of January 1976. The system provides for computer 'language' to be sent over Post Office circuits – either by telephone lines or telex links.

Corrections to Air Cargo feature

In the commentary to the statistics in the feature on International Air Cargo, published in our issue of 7 May, there were several inaccuracies in the interpretation of the statistical tables. Reference should be made to the tables themselves before relying on individual comments.

The Register of Restrictive Trading Agreements (Restrictive Trade Practices Acts 1956 to 1973)

Additions and amendments to the register

A list of additions and amendments made to the alphabetical index to the Register between 1 January and 30 April 1976 is given below; the amendments are shown in italics.

'D' and 'F' Agreements

Also given below, headed 'D' and 'F' agreements, is a schedule which brings up to date at 30 April 1976 particulars of these agreements which have been determined or varied.

A full explanation of the basis on which these two lists have been compiled, and the meaning of the symbols used, was published in *Trade and Industry* of 2 January 1976, page 8.

Agreements referred to the Restrictive Practices Court

On 10 April 1959 a list was published in the *Board of Trade Journal* (page 859) of all agreements in respect of which Notices of Reference (constituting formal commencement of proceedings before the Restrictive Practices Court) had been issued except those which had already been dealt with by the Court. Subsequent additions have been published at approximately quarterly intervals; there have been no additions to the list during the four months ending 30 April 1976. Anyone who may be in a position to assist the Court, with evidence from experience of the results of any of these agreements which might affect the public interest, is asked to communicate with the Treasury Solicitor's Branch, 3 Central Buildings, Matthew Parker Street, London SW1H 9NN.

Agreements not to be referred to the Restrictive Practices Court

The Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection may, on the representation of the Director General of Fair Trading, give directions under (Section 9(2) of the Restrictive Trade Practices Act 1968 discharging the Director General, during their continuance in force, from the duty of referring an agreement to the Restrictive Practices Court. Agreements in respect of which directions have been given are indicated in the Index to the Register by the symbol 'B'. Although such agreements are included in the list of additions and amendments to the register, for the benefit of readers they are also shown separately under this heading.

Inspection of the Register

The Register may be inspected between 10.00 a.m. and 4.30 p.m. on any weekday except Saturday and certain holidays at any of the following addresses:

Office of Fair Trading
Chancery House
Chancery Lane
London WC2A 1SP

9 Hope Street
Edinburgh EH2 4EL

Department of Commerce
176 Newtownbreda Road
Belfast BT 4JX

The fee for inspecting the Register is 50p per day, but if fewer than five agreements are inspected, the fee is 10p for each agreement.

Indexes to the Register, one as published in *Trade and Industry* and one in which commodities are grouped by classes, may be inspected at these addresses free of charge.

ADDITIONS AND AMENDMENTS TO THE REGISTER

Registered No. of Agreements	Commodity		
		B	
3869 to 3945	Bread		*add D 12/75*
3369	Benzene		*add B 3/76*
2081	Benzole		*add B 3/76*
3090	Benzole		*add B 3/76*
3263	Bituminous mastic asphalt		*add B 3/76*
		D	
3953	Domestic circulating pumps		
		F	
3951	Charges for use of fishboxes		
		G	
3755	Groceries and provisions		*add B 3/76*

'D' and 'F' agreements

Registered No. of Agreements	Commodity	D or F	Date
3869 to 3945	Bread	D	Dec. 1975

Agreements not to be referred to the Restrictive Practices Court

Registered No. of Agreements	Commodity
2081	Benzole
3090	Benzole
3263	Bituminous mastic asphalt; pitch mastic asphalt
3369	Benzene
3755	Groceries and provisions

King & Co
Chartered Surveyors
1 Snow Hill,
London, EC1A 2DL
Telephone 01-236 3000
Telex 885485
Also in Manchester,
Leeds & Brussels.

INDUSTRIAL & COMMERCIAL PROPERTY

ENCIRCLE TI 28 ON PAGE 519 FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Parliament

Monday, 10 May

Industrial Estates Corporation

Mr. Robert Taylor (Croydon North West) asked the Secretary of State for Industry what was the present number of personnel employed by the Industrial Estates Corporation.

Mr. Williams said: 'On 1 April last the English Industrial Estates Corporation employed 258. The Scottish and Welsh Industrial Estates Corporations were dissolved and their functions and staffs subsumed within the Scottish and Welsh Development Agencies from 1 December 1975 and 1 January 1976 respectively.'

Mr. Taylor asked the Secretary of State for Industry if he would give an explanation of the £214,000 of bad and doubtful debts incurred by the Industrial Estates Corporation in the accounts for the year ended 31 March 1975.

Mr. Williams said that the debts are rents and other outstanding payments not recovered from tenants who have gone into liquidation.

Government directors

Mr. John Lee (Birmingham, Handsworth) asked the Secretary of State for Industry, if he will make a statement on the criteria governing the choice of Government directors appointed to the boards of public companies.

Mr. Huckfield said that Government directors are chosen on the basis of having the relevant experience and ability to contribute to the success of the business, having regard to the purposes of the finance provided by the Government.

Private industrial investment

Mr. George Park (Coventry North East) asked what was the amount of private industrial investment in England during the last 12 months; and if he will estimate the effects of this on the economy.

Mr. Williams said that the information is not available, but capital expenditure in 1975 in the UK by all manufacturing industry (including the British Steel Corporation and excluding investment in the North Sea) was £3,585 million. In the first half of the year, investment in England was 80 per cent of the UK total.

The CBI Survey, the results of which were published last week, broadly agrees with my Department's November/December intentions survey that an upturn in investment can be expected in the course of this year.

Industrial development per capita

Mr. Robert Adley (Christchurch and Lymington) asked what percentage increase or decrease there has been in new industrial development, expressed in per capita terms, in Great Britain since 1 March 1974; and what information is available regarding comparable figures for France, West Germany, Holland and Denmark since that date.

Mr. Williams said that in the seven quarters between 1 April 1974 and 31 December 1975 (the latest date for which information is available), the volume of investment per employee in manufacturing industry in the UK is estimated to have been about 5 per cent more than in the preceding seven quarters, and about the same as in the corresponding phase of the previous investment cycle in 1970-71. He added that comparable information in respect of the other countries is not readily available.

Support to industry

Mr. Toby Jessel (Twickenham) asked the Secretary of State for Industry, if he will compare the total cost of industrial subsidies in 1974 and 1975; and what is his forecast of the figure for 1976.

Mr. Williams said: 'Expenditure on support to industry, at 1975 public expenditure survey prices and net of repayments, was £1,236 million in 1974/75, and £1,531 million in 1975/76. The forecast for 1976/77, including investment by the National Enterprise Board is £1,453 million.'

British Leyland

Mr. Hal Miller (Bromsgrove and Redditch) asked the Secretary of State for Industry whether his department has agreed with the National Enterprise Board and British Leyland the improvements in productivity and industrial relations that the Prime Minister said must be achieved before further tranches of public money can be made available to British Leyland.

Mr. Huckfield said: 'The confidential operating plans which British Leyland has agreed with the NEB for the current year include defined targets on many aspects of performance. But as my Rt. Hon. Friend told the Hon. Member for Blaby on 5 April, we should be judging whether there has been adequate improvement in productivity and industrial relations rather than applying an arithmetical formula.'

Mr. John Stonehouse (Walsall North) asked the Secretary of State for Industry if he intends to provide funds to British Leyland, in view of the failure of the company to meet targets set by the Government.

Mr. Huckfield said that the Government will take its decisions in the light of reports and recommendations yet to come from the NEB on British Leyland's progress and future plans. I do not intend to prejudge the issue now.

Shiprepair on Tyneside

Mr. Arthur Blenkinsop (South Shields) asked what major investment has been approved during the last 12 months for modernisation of the publicly-owned shiprepair yards on Tyneside.

Mr. Huckfield said that one major modernisation scheme was approved by the Department of Industry in 1975, but the management of the company decided to postpone the scheme because of a sharp deterioration in the shiprepair market.

Plastics in industrial strategy

Mr. J. W. Rooker (Birmingham, Perry Barr) asked if the British Plastics Federation has been involved in discussions concerning the industrial strategy for the 30 industrial sections; and, if not, why not.

Mr. Williams said that the Director of the British Plastics Federation is a member of the Sector Group for Synthetic Resins and Plastics Materials which is dealing with the industrial strategy for the sector covering plastics materials. Plastics processing is not among the sectors at present covered in the Industrial Strategy exercise.

Ministers at the Department of Industry

Secretary of State for Industry: Eric Varley
Ministers of State: Alan Williams
Gerald Kaufman
Parliamentary Under-Secretaries of State: Lord Melchett
Leslie Huckfield

Ministers at the Department of Trade

Secretary of State for Trade: Edmund Dell
Parliamentary Under-Secretaries of State: Michael Meacher
Stanley Clinton Davis

Ministers at the Department of Prices and Consumer Protection

Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection:
Shirley Williams
Minister of State: John Fraser
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State: Robert Maclennan

Price code for discounts

Mr. Stephen Ross (Isle of Wight) asked the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, whether her proposals for a new price code include any provisions affecting discounts offered exclusively to members of societies, trades unions and other similar organisations.

Mrs. Shirley Williams said: 'I have no such proposals. It is open to those interested to put any proposals they wish to make before me at any time.'

Food subsidy level

Mr. Michael Neubert (Havering, Romford) asked how much of the £1,200 million granted for food subsidies in the Prices Act 1975 has been spent up to the latest available date.

Mrs. Williams said that expenditure up to 30 April 1976 amounted to about £1,029 million.

Anglo-Soviet trade

Mr. Neil Macfarlane (Sutton and Cheam) asked the Secretary of State for Trade, if he is satisfied with the current progress of the implementation of the Anglo-Soviet trade deal negotiated by the former Prime Minister in 1975; and if he will list the British companies now trading with the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics as a direct result of the trade deal negotiated in 1975 by the then Prime Minister.

Mr. Edmund Dell said: 'Contracts to a total value of approximately £29 million have already been signed and further substantial contracts are under discussion. A meeting of the UK/USSR joint commission under the chairmanship of myself and Academician V. A. Kirillin is taking place this week, during which I will be emphasising the need to bring current negotiations to a speedy and successful conclusion.

'I am not prepared to list the British companies involved. It has been the practice of successive administrations not to disclose details of individual transactions entered into within the framework of Trade Agreements, since these are confidential to those parties having a commercial interest in the particular transaction concerned.'

UK shares of manufactures exports

Mr. John Nott (St. Ives) asked the Secretary of State for Trade, if he will publish his latest estimates of the quarterly share of the United Kingdom in world exports of manufactures in each quarter since the first quarter of 1974.

Mr. Meacher said that the following table shows the share of UK exports of manufactures (SITC 5-8) in the exports of manufactures by the main manufacturing countries since the first quarter of 1974:

1974 Quarter 1	8.5
2	8.9
3	8.9
4	8.8
1975 Quarter 1	9.5
2	9.2
3	9.0

Source: OECD Statistics of Foreign Trade Series B.

Anti-dumping applications

Mr. Michael Marshall (Arundel) and Mr. Nicholas Winterton (Macclesfield) asked the Secretary of State for Trade when he expects to receive the findings of the full investigation into applications for anti-dumping measures in the case of special steels as announced in Column 368 of the Official Report dated 29 March 1976.

Mr. Meacher said that the inclusion of special steels in the Answer on 29 March was an error. The correct list was the Official Report of 4 May, Col. 358. He added: 'We have discussed extensively with the British Independent Steel Producers' Association their application for anti-dumping action against Japanese steels, but have not decided whether to accept it for full investigation.'

Mr. Nicholas Winterton asked the Secretary of State for Trade what progress has been made by his department with regard to the anti-dumping application submitted to him regarding the imports of high-speed and tool steels.

Mr. Meacher said that the matter was a highly complex one which officials were studying carefully; they expected to be in touch with the trade association shortly.

Nationalised industries and Russian ships

Mr. Terence L. Higgins (Worthing) asked the Secretary of State for Trade, what estimate he has made of the cost to the balance of payments of the nationalised industries using Russian ships; and which nationalised industries do so or propose to do so.

Mr. Clinton Davis said: 'Precise information is not available but the balance of payments cost is negligible. While I would like to see nationalised industries using British ships, they are entitled to use their commercial judgment in matters of day to day management except that they are expected to follow HMG's traditional policies of free and fair competition. The Government is watching the position carefully.'

EEC electricity generation

Mr. Peter Rost (South East Derbyshire) asked the Secretary of State for Energy if he will publish latest available figures of the percentage of electricity generated in each of the EEC countries, in the public and private sectors, respectively, by combined electricity and heat production.

Mr. Eadie gave the following information.

The latest data available for publication is based on the 1972 data. The percentage of electricity generated from thermal stations by combined heat and power schemes in the EEC countries is:

	Public sector	Industrial sector
Belgium	33.7	19.7
Denmark	34.9	7.1
France	0.6	64.7
Germany	7.9	54.6
Ireland	0.0	90.0
Italy	—	60.7
Netherlands	—	72.9
United Kingdom	0.1	72.2

Tuesday, 11 May

Planning agreements

Mrs. Audrey Wise (Coventry South West) asked the Secretary of State for Industry, how many planning agreements are in the course of negotiation and with whom, at the latest available date, and how many planning agreements have now been agreed; and with whom.

Mr. Williams said: 'As I announced before Easter, six companies have agreed to move to operative discussions on Planning Agreements: Babcock and Wilcox, Clarke Chapman, Head Wrightson and Whessoe in relation to their process plant fabricating interests, GEC and Reyrolle Parsons in relation to their turbo-generator interests. In addition there will be Planning Agreements with British Leyland and Chrysler United Kingdom. When a Planning Agreement is made, a statement to that effect will be laid before the House.

EEC Regional Development Fund

Mr. Robert Woof (Blaydon) asked the Secretary of State for Industry, to what extent the EEC Regional Development Fund ensures that the fund's resources go to regions which suffer from serious imbalances; to what extent the EEC Regional Development Fund supports projects in the regions receiving assistance from the fund that are making a genuine contribution to their development; what efforts his department has made to get assistance from the EEC Regional Development Fund for regions dominated by unemployment and inflation problems; how his department implements the principle of co-ordination of regional aids from the EEC Regional Development Fund; and what efforts are concentrated on those regions where measures are most needed.

Mr. Williams replied that the Regulation governing the European Regional Development Fund requires that in selecting projects for Fund assistance priority must be given to national priority areas. In the UK these are Northern Ireland, the Special Development Areas and the Development Areas. The Intermediate Areas are also eligible to receive Fund assistance and in 1975 just under 20 per cent of applications to the Fund were from Intermediate Areas. All projects contribute to the strengthening of the industrial and employment base of the areas concerned. Member Governments submit annually statements describing their regional problems and the means by which they are being tackled. Applications are related to these statements.

Air services in Wales

Mr. Dafydd Wigley (Caernarvon) asked the Secretary of State for Trade if he will provide financial assistance for the establishment of a north-south air service in Wales, as part of Wales' regional, economic and social development, in line with such requirements as are outlined in Command Paper No. 6400, 'Future Civil Aviation Policy'.

Mr. Clinton Davis said: 'No. The relevant part of the Guidance to the Civil Aviation Authority draws attention to the contribution that air services may make to development, and it would be for the Authority to take this into account in considering an application from an airline for a licence to operate a service within Wales.'

Aircraft noise

Mr. Bob Cryer (Keighley) asked the Secretary of State for Trade what action he proposes to take on the Local Authorities Aircraft Noise Control Report on the noise generated by Concorde to offset the damage outlined in the report; and if he will make a statement.

Mr. Clinton Davis said that his technical advisers are examining this report, but preliminary indications are that it does not

substantiate the alarmist conclusions drawn in some quarters, and in particular fails to substantiate a case that there is risk of damage to the hearing of people living near Heathrow.

Price index

Mr. John Nott (St. Ives) asked the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection if she will publish monthly figures for the Price Commission's index of prices for the full period since its inception.

Mrs. Williams said that she saw no reason to alter the present arrangements whereby these figures are published by the Price Commission at quarterly intervals in their reports.

Wednesday, 12 May

Salaries in public bodies

Mr. Giles Shaw (Pudsey) asked the Secretary of State for Industry if he will list in the Official Report each of the public bodies for which he is responsible, the names of the chairmen of each of these bodies appointed by him, the names of the members of these bodies appointed by him and the salaries the chairmen and members of these bodies receive, stating whether these salaries are for full or part-time service.

Mr. Huckfield provided the list below and said that a list including unpaid appointments, and appointments attracting modest daily fees, could only be compiled at disproportionate cost.

British Steel Corporation		Salary
Chairman (full-time)	Sir Montague Finniston	£28,330
Deputy Chairmen (part-time)	M. Littman	£18,253
	Sir Peter Matthews	£2,000
	Sir Charles Villiers	£2,000
Members (full time)	R. Smith, Lord Layton, L. R. P. Pugh, R. Scholey	£16,830 to £21,830
Members (part time)	A. Silbertson	£4,000
	W. D. Griffiths	£4,000
	Sir Matthew Stevenson	£4,000
	Lord Weir	£1,000
	Sir Melvyn Rosser	£3,000
	Sir James Menter	£1,000
	J. Diamond	£1,000
	J. B. Woodeson	£1,000
	Lord Gregson	£1,000
Cable and Wireless Ltd		
Chairman (part time)	H. G. Lillicrap	£9,080
Managing Director (full time)	A. A. Willett	£12,830
Directors (full-time)	R. A. Rice, W. H. Davies, P. A. McCunn, R. W. Cannon	£10,330
Directors (part-time)	J. Hodgson	unpaid*
	D. Berriman	£1,000
	W. R. R. Haines	£1,000
	A. J. Kirkwood	£1,000

* Receives no remuneration in addition to his salary as an official.

English Industrial Estates Corporation		
Chairman (part-time)	H. W. Heyman	£4,432
Members (part-time)	K. J. Alford	£700
	J. S. Heaton	£700
	J. Harle	£700
	J. Eccles	£700
Furniture Development Council		
Chairman (part-time)	Sir Roger Falk	£250
National Computing Centre Ltd.		
Chairman (part-time)	Sir Robert Cockburn	£1,000
Deputy Chairman (part-time)	F. Mitchell	£750
Director (full-time)	D. Firnberg	£9,700
Members (part-time)	A. St Johnston	£675
	W. H. Lake	£500
National Enterprise Board		
Chairman (full-time)	Lord Ryder	£31,850
Deputy Chairman (full-time)	L. F. Murphy	£26,000
Members (part-time)	D. Basnett	£1,000
	J. L. Dickinson	£1,000
	W. B. McK. Duncan	£1,000
	M. O. Edwards	£1,000
	J. A. Gardiner	£1,000
	J. Lyons	£1,000
	C. H. Urwin	£1,000
	Mrs. Caroline Miles	£1,000
National Research Development Corporation		
Chairman (part-time)	Lord Schon	£2,000
Managing Director (full-time)	W. Makinson	£12,829
Members (part-time)	F. A. S. Wood	£1,000
	F. J. M. Laver	£1,000
	L. V. D. Tindale	£1,000
	Sir Peter Matthews	£1,000
	C. Jenkins	£1,000
	B. Stanley	£1,000
	Prof. A. W. Johnson	£1,000
The Post Office		
Chairman (full-time)	Sir William Ryland	£23,330
Deputy Chairman (full-time)	Sir Edward Fennessy	£19,330
Members (full-time)	Prof. J. H. H. Merriman, K. M. Young, A. Currall, A. E. Singer, M. Elderfield	£12,830 to £17,830
Members (part-time)	D. Gladwin	£1,000
	C. Foster	£1,000
	Sir Morien Morgan	£1,000
	J. E. Read	£1,000
	Lord Pitt	£1,000

Mr. Shaw asked the Secretary of State for Trade a similar question.

Mr. Edmund Dell said: 'The list of salaried appointments is as follows:'

British Airports Authority		Salary
Chairman (part-time)	N. G. Foulkes	£10,748
Deputy Chairman (part-time)	W. D. H. Gregson	£2,000
Members (full-time)	N. J. Payne, K. B. Walter, D. W. Turner	£12,000 to £13,330
Members (part-time)	Miss K. Whitehorn	£1,000
	N. Vinson	£1,000
	M. Marks	£1,000
	Lord Allen	£1,000
British Airways Board		
Chairman	Sir Francis McFadzean	£1,000 (part-time to 30.6.76) £23,330 (full-time from 1.7.76)
Deputy Chairman (full-time)	H. E. Marking	£20,830
Members (full-time)	J. R. Stainton, S. F. Wheatcroft, C. A. Herring, H. T. H. Phelps, R. Watts, K. Wilkinson	£12,830 to £17,830
Members (part-time)	P. Parker	£1,500
	A. W. Fisher	£1,500
	W. A. de Vigier	£1,000
	Miss J. Tanburn	£1,000
British Film Fund Agency		
Chairman (part-time)	P. E. Heywood	£1,000
Members (part-time)	A. G. H. Marks	£500
	E. S. Jackson	£500
British Tourist Authority		
Chairman (part-time)	Sir Alexander Glen	£6,415
Members (part-time)	D. Macdonald	£1,000
	H. Marking	£1,000
	Mrs. A. Munro	£1,000
	I. Harrington	£1,000
	Lord Garnock	£1,000
Cinematograph Films Council		
Chairman (part-time)	A. W. Mallinson	£600 (not drawn)
Civil Aviation Authority		
Chairman (full-time)	Lord Boyd Carpenter	£18,989
Deputy Chairman (full-time)	R. R. Goodison	£12,330
Members (full-time)	R. Colegate, H. C. Partridge, Air Marshall Sir I. G. Broom, M. H. Vivian	£11,002 to £14,000
Members (part-time)	Group Captain D. R. S. Bader	£2,974
	M. H. W. Wells	£2,000
	Prof. D. Keith-Lucas	£1,000
	Sir Henry Phillips	£6,058
	J. C. Williamson	£1,000
	The Hon. A. Maxwell Stamp	£8,007
English Tourist Board		
Chairman (part-time)	Sir Mark Henig	£6,415
Members (part-time)	Col. W. Adkins	£1,000
	M. Dower	£1,000
	D. Gladwin	£1,000
	Sir Lou Sherman	£1,000
	Mrs. A. Yates	£1,000
	S. Royle	£1,000
National Film Finance Corporation		
Chairman (part-time)	Sir Robert Clark	£3,292
Managing Director (full-time)	J. Terry	£10,830
Non-executive Directors (part-time)	C. Dolley	£1,000
	Lord Remnant	£1,000
	G. Williams	£1,000

'A list including unpaid appointments, and appointments attracting modest daily fees, could only be compiled at disproportionate cost.'

Steel scrap availability

Mr. Tom King (Bridgwater) asked the Secretary of State for Industry whether he is satisfied with the availability of steel scrap in the United Kingdom; and if he will make a statement.

Mr. Huckfield said: 'The procurement of adequate supplies of ferrous scrap is a commercial matter for the consuming industries. Current shortages of high grade scrap are being offset in the traditional way by imports and there are some indications that the market is now steadying. For its part the Government does not permit exports of high grade scrap to non-Community countries and has reduced the quota for April-June exports of low grade scrap to these countries by 25 per cent. I shall continue to watch developments closely.'

ECGD facilities for Indonesian trade

Mr. Stanley Newens (Harlow) asked the Secretary of State for Trade, if he will make a statement on the increased use of ECGD facilities for trade with Indonesia in recent months.

Mr. Meacher said that there is no evidence of any recent increase in the resort to ECGD facilities for business with Indonesia.

Exports to selected countries

Mr. Ivor Clemitson (Luton East) asked the Secretary of State for Trade what proportion of manufactured exports from the United Kingdom in each of the last 10 years was represented by such exports to the following countries combined:

Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Burma, Burundi, Central African Republic, Chad, Dahomey, Ethiopia, Gambia, India, Kenya, Lesotho, Malagasy Republic Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Pakistan, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda, Upper Volta, Zaire and Vietnam.

Mr. Michael Meacher said that the information is as follows:

	%
1966	6.2
1967	5.9
1968	4.7
1969	4.4
1970	3.9
1971	4.6
1972	3.9
1973	3.2
1974	2.9
1975	3.3

(*Note:* Manufactured exports are defined as Sections 5 to 8 of the overseas trade statistics.)

Trade with Vietnam

Mr. Bob Cryer (Keighley) asked the Secretary of State for Trade, what representations have been made for the extension of trade with Vietnam; and if he will make a statement on the current trading position; and what approaches he has made to the Government of Vietnam for information about the trading requirement of Vietnam; and what assistance has been given to British industry in the form of advice and guidance to assist with meeting those needs.

Mr. Meacher said: 'My Department has recently discussed trade opportunities with the North Vietnamese Chargé d'Affaires in London and is in touch with British firms who may be able to meet Vietnam's needs. As my Hon. Friend was informed on 28 January the British Ambassador in Hanoi is in contact with the Vietnamese about their trading requirement. Several firms are in detailed discussions and the number of British business visitors to Vietnam has increased in recent months. The level of trade in recent years was as follows:

£ million

	1972		1973		1974		1975	
	North	South	North	South	North	South	North	South
UK Exports	0	1.0	0.1	2.0	0.2	2.0	0.1	0.5
UK Imports	0	0.1	0	0.2	0.3	0.3	1.3	0.2

It is likely that trade this year will be at a higher level.'

Mr. Cryer also asked if long-term credits are available for assisting trading arrangements with Vietnam.

Mr. Meacher replied that the Export Credits Guarantee Department is prepared to consider applications for cover for business with Vietnam in accordance with normal underwriting criteria.

Thursday, 13 May

Stainless steel plate

Mr. T. H. H. Skeet (Bedford) asked whether there are any manufacturers in the United Kingdom capable of providing stainless steel plate of the quality and specification required for use in the construction of SGHWR's.

Mr. Huckfield said that the British Steel Corporation is initially to supply stainless steel plate under 2m wide for the SGHWR programme. BSC's capacity to produce wider plate is now being developed and the Corporation should be well placed to compete for future business when new facilities are ready in 1977.

Export levels

Mr. Giles Radice (Chester le Street) asked the Secretary of State for Trade whether he is satisfied with the volume of British exports.

Mr. Meacher said: 'Our exports have responded to improving economic conditions overseas, and their volume is now increasing after having fallen during much of 1975 as a result of the world trade recession. In the first quarter of this year the volume of our exports was 3 per cent higher than in the previous quarter, following a rise of 7 per cent between the third and fourth quarters of last year. This improving trend is encouraging but it is essential that it be maintained. Our exports are now very competitive and we must grasp the opportunities that the widely expected revival in world trade, now becoming apparent, will afford. In this I am heartened by the optimism on export prospects which emerged from the recent CBI Survey. This demonstrates that industry recognises the essential role that exports have in our economic life and that positive action will be taken to ensure its growth.'

Plastics in furniture

Mr. Ioan Evans (Aberdare) asked the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, when the final report on the research sponsored by the Government into the fire hazards of plastic materials used in the manufacture of furniture is to be published.

Mr. Fraser said: 'The report on the third and final year of this research, undertaken by the Rubber and Plastics Research Association under the direction of the Fire Research Station, is being published today by the Building Research Establishment. My department has asked the British Furniture Manufacturers Federated Associations to recommend to their members that they should take the findings in this report into account in deciding on the composition and design of the upholstered furniture they produce. Until suitable fire test methods become available as a result of further research now being undertaken, it is not practicable to impose regulatory controls on the sale of furniture. The report is however being studied in depth with our expert advisers on flammability to see whether any additional interim guidance is possible.'

Regional development fund

Mr. Robert Kilroy-Silk (Ormskirk) asked how much of the £17.6 million recently allocated to the United Kingdom by the EEC's Regional Fund has been used to reimburse the Government for its own expenditure and for what other regional development this was used.

Mr. Williams replied that £4.6 million of the £17.6 million has been committed from the Regional Development Fund as contributions towards the cost of the UK Regional Aids to be paid to 105 industrial and service industry projects. As already announced these receipts will be retained by the Government and will enable the Government to go ahead with a greater total of regional investment than could have been managed otherwise. For example the size of the new programme of advance factory building in England announced on 28 November 1975 was fixed after account had been taken of likely receipts from the fund. £13.0 million has been committed as contributions towards the cost of 157 infrastructure projects carried out by local and other public authorities. These receipts will enable the authorities concerned to reduce their borrowing in respect of those projects.

Public bodies

Mr. Shaw asked the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection if she will list in the Official Report each of the public bodies for which she is responsible, the names of the chairmen of each of these bodies appointed by her, the names of the members of these bodies appointed by her, and the salaries of chairmen and members these bodies receive, stating whether these salaries are for full- or part-time service.

Mr. Fraser said: 'The list of salaried appointments is as follows:'

		Salary
Central Transport Consultative Committee		
Chairman (part-time)	R. P. Roberts	£1,250
Electricity Consultative Councils		
Area Chairmen (part-time)		
Eastern	C. T. Muddiman	£2,100
East Midlands	C. R. W. Grantham	£2,100
London	T. Young	£2,100
Merseyside and North Wales	J. M. Moore	£2,100
Midlands	L. V. Pike	£2,100
North Eastern	J. Brocklebank	£2,100
North Western	S. C. Clifford	£2,100
South Eastern	Dame Elizabeth Ackroyd	£2,100
Southern	J. Peck	£2,100
South Wales	A. C. Randall-Edmunds	£2,100
South Western	D. C. Atchley	£2,100
Yorkshire	D. Webster	£2,100
Metrication Board		
Chairman (part-time)	Lord Orr-Ewing	£4,665
Deputy chairman (part-time)	J. M. Wood	£2,577
Members (part-time)	M. A. Abrahams	£750
	B. N. Baxter	£750
	Miss F. K. College	£750
	E. Cust	£750
	D. H. Darbishire	£750
	D. C. Dewar	£750
	J. M. Ferguson	£750
	D. Hobman	£750
	Miss D. D. Hyams	£750
	D. M. Landau	£750
	Prof. M. L. McGlashan	£750
	H. P. Scanlon	£750
	Mrs. A. Stanley	£750
	Mrs. J. Upward	£750
Monopolies and Mergers Commission		
Chairman (full-time)	J. G. LeQuesne	£16,580
Deputy chairmen (part-time)	E. L. Richards	£6,618
	Sir Max Brown	£4,412
Members (part-time	R. G. Opie	£2,300
	Miss Rita Stephen	£2,300
	G. F. Ashford	£2,300
	Dr. F. E. Jones	£2,300
	J. S. Sadler	£2,300
	Prof. H. Street	£2,300
	Sir Dallas Bernard	£2,300
	S. A. Robinson	£2,300
	Prof. J. Barna	£2,300
	Prof. B. S. Yamey	£2,300
	R. G. Aspray	£2,300
	T. P. Lyons	£2,300
	C. T. H. Plant	£2,300
	Sir Roger Falk	£2,300
	Mrs. C. M. Miles	£2,300
	Lady Bowden	£2,300
	John S. Copp	£2,300
	C. J. M. Hardie	£2,300
	Lady Hall	£2,300

National Consumer Council		
Chairman (part-time)	M. Young	£6,000
Members (part-time including Scottish and Welsh chairmen	Mrs. B. Lipman	£750
	Mrs. J. Macintosh	£750
	Mrs. H. Armstrong	£750
	M. Barnes	£750
	Mrs. A. Davis	£750
	Mrs. J. Evans	£750
	Miss S. Gray	£750
	C. Holmes	£750
	J. Kenyon	£750
	Mrs. C. Maher	£750
	Mrs. D. McAuslan	£750
	Mrs. S. Morrison	£750
	Baroness Phillips	£750
	Mrs. E. Smith	£750
	Mrs. C. Stein	£750
	Mrs. R. Waterhouse	£750
	M. Wood	£750
	Mrs. M. Richardson	£750
National Gas Consumers' Council		
Chairman (part-time)	Baroness Macleod	£2,000
Office of Fair Trading		
Director General (full-time)	J. Methven	£16,580
Post Office Users' National Council		
Chairman (part-time)	Lord Peddie	£2,000
Price Commission		
Chairman (full-time)	Sir Arthur Cockfield	£16,580
Deputy chairman (part-time)	K. A. Noble	£7,548
Members (part-time)	Prof. D. C. Hague	£3,432
	Miss M. E. Head	£3,432
	A. W. John	£3,432
	Miss S. Black	£1,716
	A. W. Howitt	£1,716
	B. I. Petch	£1,716
Regional Gas Consumers' Councils		
Regional chairmen (part-time)		
Eastern	Mrs. A. Williams	£1,750
East Midlands	Sir Mark Henig	£2,100
North Eastern	W. A. Proom	£1,750
Northern	J. Hudson	£2,100
North Thames	C. T. Higgins	£2,100
North Western	A. G. Read	£1,750
West Midlands	R. D. Hoskin	£1,750
Scottish	Mrs. I. O. Stewart	£2,100
South Eastern	Mrs. M. R. Grimes	£1,750
Southern	Mrs. K. E. Lambert	£1,750
South Western	Sir Peter Hellings	£1,750
Wales	Miss M. Roach	£1,750
Scottish Consumer Council		
Chairman (part-time)	Mrs. J. Macintosh	£500
Transport Users' Consultative Committees		
Area chairmen (part-time)		
East Anglia	L. A. Carey	£1,000
East Midlands	S. A. Campbell	£1,000
London	G. H. Harris	£1,000
North Eastern	W. V. Golding	£1,000
North Western	A. N. Hunt	£1,000
Scotland	E. W. Craig	£1,000
South Eastern	P. W. Milligan	£1,000
South Western	Dr. M. D. D. Newitt	£1,000
Wales	C. L. Ricketts	£1,000
West Midlands	L. V. Pike	£1,000
Yorkshire	W. J. Price	£1,000
Welsh Consumer Council		
Chairman (part-time)	Mrs. B. Lipman	£500

A list including unpaid appointments, and appointments attracting modest daily fees, could only be compiled at disproportionate cost.

Friday, 14 May

Price Commission staff

Mr. Ian Gow (Eastbourne) asked the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer protection, how many civil servants were employed by the Price Commission on 5 April 1976; and what were the comparable figures for the same date in each of the years since the Commission was set up.

Mr. Maclennan gave the following information:

Date	Total staff	Seconded civil servants included in column 2
7 May 1973*	345	345
5 April 1974	589	353
5 April 1975	750	418
5 April 1976	714	325

* The earliest date for which figures are available.

Commodities imports

Mr. Ivor Clemitson (Luton East) asked the Secretary of State for Trade if he will list the value of imports into the United Kingdom of each of the following 10 commodities in each of the last 10 years: cocoa, coffee, copper, cotton, jute, rubber, sisal, sugar, tea, and tin and the percentage of the total value of imports into the United Kingdom the combined imports of those commodities represented in each of the last 10 years.

Mr. Meacher gave the following information:

£ million

	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975
Cocoa (beans, powder, paste and cocoa butter)	25.2	29.7	33.7	50.2	44.6	35.4	39.8	62.9	106.9	87.7
Coffee (including substitutes)	24.1	22.7	31.2	34.1	42.4	51.1	47.4	77.6	63.9	69.5
Copper (ore, waste and scrap, blister, other unrefined and refined wrought copper)	216.9	176.9	227.9	272.2	278.3	183.1	196.3	312.1	431.0	255.3
Cotton (raw, yarn, thread and fabrics)	102.2	101.7	127.2	110.4	106.9	121.4	130.6	185.2	234.5	213.5
Jute (raw, yarn, and fabrics)	20.7	21.9	22.5	19.9	19.0	15.6	22.1	17.6	20.6	12.5
Crude rubber (including synthetic and reclaimed)	46.1	44.5	48.5	60.9	57.6	52.8	47.5	74.8	100.4	92.9
Sisal (not spun)	4.5	3.8	3.2	3.6	3.4	2.8	2.7	5.2	7.7	4.4
Sugar	97.8	93.1	93.9	102.0	104.0	108.3	132.6	151.2	333.5	589.1
Tea	99.0	105.6	112.1	82.8	104.8	94.9	82.2	82.8	117.7	128.6
Tin (ore, waste and scrap)	23.3	24.9	28.3	36.0	31.5	24.0	25.5	24.8	34.1	27.1
Totals as percentages of UK total imports	11.1	9.7	9.2	9.3	8.8	7.0	6.5	6.3	6.3	6.2

UK exports to EEC six

Mr. Bryan Gould (Southampton) asked what proportion of the United Kingdom's exports have gone to the six original members of the EEC for the years since 1970.

Mr. Meacher gave the following information:

	Per cent
1970	22
1971	21
1972	23
1973	25
1974	26
1975	25
1976 (January-March)	27

Imports of chrome

Sir Nigel Fisher (Kingston upon Thames, Surbiton) asked for the publication of a table showing from which countries the United Kingdom imports chrome, the percentage of the United Kingdom's supplies from each of these countries and from which countries chrome could be imported, with an estimate of the likely volume of such imports.

Mr. Meacher said: 'In 1975 chromium ores and concentrates were imported from the following countries:

	Percentage of total imports (by quantity)
South Africa	56
Philippines	37
USA	3
Cyprus	3
Finland	1

Chromium ores and concentrates are produced in a number of other countries, but importers may be expected to buy from the most advantageous source available to them.'

Government Publications in London

from

Her Majesty's Stationery Office, 49 High Holborn WC1V 6HB

Government Sales

Ministry of Defence

3-4 June 1976 Miscellaneous stores

Location: The Great Danes Hotel, Ashford Road, Hollingbourne, Nr. Maidstone, Kent

Auctioneers: Fuller Horsey Sons and Cassell (Dept. L), 52 Bow Lane, London EC4M 9ET (tel: 01-248 7954)

The stores which are lying at various depots in SE England include machine tools, wood-working machinery, air compressors, Conveyancer-Raymond fork lift truck, acetate-foil winding and forming machine, Pantak mobile x-ray unit, dial indicators, pulley blocks, chain blocks, diesel engines, steel tubes and rods, Avery weighing machines, electrical equipment, cameras, multi-coloured teleprinter paper, wrist, pocket and stop watches, clocks, binoculars, Morris 3 ton van, minibuses and saloon cars, Landrovers, Bedford coach and Bedford ambulances, Fordson Major diesel tractor, Ford 7 ton tipper, AEC diesel cargo truck, Austin 3 ton trucks, electric trucks, Scammell recovery truck, Bedford box vans, MT spares and tyres, blankets, raincoats, greatcoats, carpets, mixed and woollen rags, DMS and other boots and shoes, a large quantity of household and office furniture, steel wardrobes, kitchen utensils and numerous other effects.

8, 9-10 June 1976 Vehicles, earthmoving and lifting equipment

Location: Ordnance Storage and Disposal Depot RAOC, Ruddington, Nottingham

Auctioneers: Walker Walton and Hanson (Dept L), Byard Lane, Bridlesmith Gate, Nottingham NG1 2GL (tel: 0602 54272)

Approx. 1,450 lots including 300 commercial vehicles including heavy duty trucks and tractors by AEC, Leyland and Scammell. 20 3 ton farm trailers, 120 trailers (10 cwt–20 ton), refuellers, fire tenders, Bedford RL and TK trucks and tractor units. 670 saloons, limousines, estate cars, minibuses and light vans (including 360 Morris Mini and Minor 1000 saloons and Travellers). 300 Landrovers, 70 motor cycles. Caterpillar D4C tractor, tractors by Track Marshall and Vickers, fork lift trucks, mobile cranes by Coles, Jones and Taylor, side loaders. The majority of vehicles will be offered as single lots.

Catalogues for the above sales which give details of the lots, conditions of sale, viewing times etc. are available from the auctioneers from two weeks before and up to the day of the sale, price 20p postage and packing 10p extra (postal orders only).

Sale by Tender

Machine, printing, rotary, offset, 2 colour quad demy, Mann Fast 5 for sale by tender lying at the Mapping and Charting Establishment, Feltham, Middlesex. The machine can be inspected at the Establishment on presentation of a copy of the Ministry of Defence tender documents obtainable from The Directorate of Sales Supply, Sales Supply 6aii, Ministry of Defence, St. Christopher House, Southwark Street, London SE1, tel. 01-928 7999 Ext. 4061.

Wembley Auction Sales 1975/76

1 June 1976

View Days:	Day preceding and morning of sale
Location:	Department of the Environment Property Services Agency Supplies Division Store India Pavilion Exhibition Grounds Wembley, Middx. Tel. 01-903 2508
Description of Goods:	Office and Miscellaneous Furniture Engineering, Electrical, Canteen, Domestic and Other Equipment
Auctioneers:	Messrs. Fuller, Horsey, Sons and Cassell 52 Bow Lane London EC4M 9ET Tel. 01-248 7954
Catalogue:	Direct from the auctioneer price 10p each

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Technology News

Solar energy – save it for a rainy day?

While solar energy may look attractive, in the UK where we have about half the solar radiation of the USA or Australia we may be able to supply only 10 or 20 per cent of our energy requirements in the long term. But although this is small by comparison with other countries, it would nevertheless be a valuable and inexhaustible source, and solar systems could undoubtedly be an important export to sunnier and developing countries.

The chief problem is not one of basic shortage of solar energy, but one of finding more cost effective techniques for collecting and storing it.

It has been estimated that in 1976, America will be spending about £35 million on solar energy research and development, compared with £18 million in Japan, £3 million in France, £3 million in West Germany and a total of £2 million in the EEC.

In the UK in particular, more information is needed, especially in such areas as Cornwall and west Wales, where solar prospects are good. Problems of storage are of particular significance as there are long periods when solar energy could be saved, for use later. Solar water heaters are already financially attractive compared with on-peak electricity, at the standard rate, for domestic water heating. If manufacturing industry firms and the building industry could collaborate, further reductions in cost might be achieved.

Even now, it makes good sense to install solar heating in any open air swimming pool before a conventional fossil fuel system is considered. While companies engaged in design studies for industrial plant overseas should bear in mind that solar water heating can reduce running costs.

A report entitled 'Solar Energy – a UK assessment' has been published this month, prepared with the assistance of seven groups consisting of 39 people drawn from industry, universities, polytechnics and government.

Further information from the UK section of the International Solar Energy Society, The Royal Institution, 21 Albemarle Street, London W1X 4BS.

Yam yesterday

Producing diosgen at the Tropical Products Institute, a chemical which, together with yamogen, can be transformed into steroid drugs. Normally extracted from wild yam, dwindling supplies have led to a project in collaboration with the Pyrethrum Board of Kenya to produce the drugs from fenugreek. Drugs of this type are used to make contraceptive pills as well as for treating skin complaints and rheumatoid conditions. Part of the Ministry of Overseas Development, TPI exists to help developing countries make better use of their plant and animal products.

Chlorofluorocarbons

A report by the Department of the Environment concludes that although theories about the possible effect of certain chlorofluorocarbons on the ozone layer of the stratosphere are plausible, more information is needed.

Denis Howell, Minister of State, Department of the Environment, said in reply to a Parliamentary question by Roy Hughes, MP: 'The report concludes that scientifically the hypotheses that have been put forward on the possible effects of chlorofluorocarbons 11 and 12 on the stratospheric ozone layer are plausible. Limited studies suggest that if the 1973 rate of usage of CFCs 11 and 12 is continued, a maximum depletion of about 8 per cent in the ozone layer will occur in about 100 years' time: this will cause an increase of about 16 per cent in ultraviolet radiation reaching the ground. To put the matter in perspective, this would be equivalent to the increase in exposure incurred by a person moving from northern England to the south coast of England. But more information is needed to reduce the uncertainties involved, and research will be directed towards this end. When this is available, in two or three years' time, we shall be better able to make decisions about the continued use of these chlorofluorocarbons. Meanwhile, manufacturers are being asked, as a precautionary step, to intensify their search for alternative aerosol propellants and foaming agents and to seek to minimise unintentional emissions from industrial equipment.'

Some scientists have suggested that chlorofluorocarbon gases CFC 11 and CFC 12, widley used as propellants in aerosols, as refrigerants and as foaming agents, might catalyse the destruction of the stratospheric ozone layer. This layer protects the earth from much of the sun's ultraviolet radiation. If the amount of ozone were reduced, more ultraviolet would reach the earth's surface, which might lead to an increase in the incidence of sunburn and skin cancer.

Aluminium instead of copper

Savings of about £10 million a year are expected by the Post Office through switching from copper to aluminium conductors in local telephone cables.

The decision to use aluminium, at £450 a ton currently half the price of copper, follows a new agreement with the Telecommunication Cable Makers Association, and the metal will be used in those cables installed to connect new exchange lines to local telephone exchanges.

These cables consist of pairs of wires insulated with plastics. Normally one pair is used by each customer although business users may have up to 100 or more pairs. The cables are grouped together in various sizes and aluminium will be used in cables of up to 2,000 pairs.

Already about 25 per cent of cable purchases for the local network are in aluminium, but until recently it was not extensively used because it was less satisfactory than copper. Now new alloys have been discovered with more suitable properties than the commercially pure metal.

Because aluminium is not as good an electrical conductor as copper, the aluminium wire is made with a slightly larger diameter to obtain the same overall resistance. However, it has now proved possible to reduce the thickness of the polyethylene insulation, so the overall thickness of the wire and its insulation is only slightly greater.

Corrosive liquids – inspecting the tank

Elcometer Instruments Ltd. have now introduced the Tanktector, designed for the detection of cracks or holes in non conductive linings of steel tanks or vessels containing corrosive liquids. The advantage of this instrument is that tests can be undertaken while the contents are still in the tank, so reducing the need for costly shutdown periods, when the tanks are emptied for visual inspection.

Tanktector operates without power source as it obtains current from the electrolytic action of the corrosive liquid into which it has been placed and the two integral electrodes which form part of the instrument's body.

The device is suitable for use in mild steel vessels which contain metallic components other than mild steel in contact with both the contents and the vessels outer shell.

Lining failure is indicated on a compact meter housed in a protected panel with two other simple to operate controls. Its tubular construction (2½in diameter and 2m long) caters for ease of operation, by insertion through a suspect tank's inspection cover, or other access point.

Application is not limited to static installations but can be used on mobile vessels whether transported by road or rail.

Its compact nature makes it easy to carry out spot checks, which can reduce the possibility of accidents caused by sudden leakage of a corrosive liquid due to lining failure.

The cost of a standard unit ½m, 1m, or 2m long is £85. The instrument was developed in ICIs Control Engineering Laboratory and Elcometer have been licensed to manufacture and market it on a world-wide basis.

For further details contact: Elcometer Instruments Ltd., Edge Lane, Droylsden, Manchester M35 6BU.

Air supported structures

'A space-enclosing single skin membrane anchored to the ground and kept in tension by internal air pressure so that it can support applied loading.' That is the definition of an air supported structure in the draft for development on the subject just published by the British Standards Institution.

First used principally for warehousing and sometimes for sports activities, air supported structures are now being adopted much more ambitiously for general purposes. On one site in Milton Keynes, for example, there are five structures which, if not floating in the air, are at least supported by it and provide a cafeteria, library, laboratory, conference house and machine shop/stores. The advantages are low initial cost, cheapness of operation and speed of erection.

DD 50 Air Supported Structures provides a useful summary of the available information, but is mainly aimed at encouraging feedback from users so that a definitive British Standard can be written as soon as possible. It gives recommendations covering design, construction, operation and maintenance of single-skin air supported structures and deals both with complete structures and with specialised components.

DD 50 may be obtained from BSI Sales Department, 101 Pentonville Road, London N1 9ND. Price £3.10 including postage.

New Consub submersible

British Aircraft Corporation are to go ahead with development of a more powerful version of the Consub unmanned submersible. Consub 2 will be able to carry a more varied payload and cover a greater area and will be available in 1977.

Designed for the offshore industry, it will be based on experience gained over the past two years with Consub 1, which has been used for geological surveys and inspecting North Sea oil pipelines and structures.

Highways and busways

Runcorn is a new town with a specially built road reserved for buses – the Busway. In 1973 a survey was made to determine what travel was like for residents and measurements were made of bus journey-times, passenger waiting-times at Busway stops and the regularity and reliability of buses.

This showed that the £6 million spent on land and construction of the Busway would be justified by reduced expenditure on the other transport facilities, lower costs for the bus operator, and time savings to bus users.

The average bus journey-speed, including stops, measured on the Busway was 31km/h (19 mile/h) compared with a likely figure of 19km/h (12 mile/h) for a conventional bus service. This meant for passengers a saving of about 2½ minutes for the average journey of 2km.

A copy of the full report, LR 697, may be obtained on written request to the Library, Transport and Road Research Laboratory, Old Wokingham Road, Crowthorne, Berkshire.

Gas treatment platform: 21-day tow

Gas treatment platform no. 1 undergoing final preparations before being towed 900 miles from Loch Fyne in Scotland to the Frigg gas field in the North Sea. Escorted by the Royal Navy ship HMS *Reward*, and towed by six tugs, it will take about 21 days travelling at 2.5 knots to complete the longest platform tow ever to be undertaken from the UK to the North Sea exploration area. The concrete platform will be water ballasted to a draught of 117 ft until clear of the 100 fathom line and further ballasted to 213 ft for the remainder of the tow. When in position it will stand in 340 ft of water and will scrub and clean the gas before it is piped ashore.

European Community News

European social fund: UK receives £45.9m for 1975

The European social fund made allocations to the UK for 1975 totalling £45.9 million, or 29.4 per cent of the total of allocations to all member states. In the previous two years of the UK's membership of the EEC this country's allocations were £25.9 million (1974) and £23.9 million (1973).

Despite its title, the European social fund is essentially an employment and training fund which can help with financial support for schemes of training and resettlement mainly for the benefit of unemployed people and those categories of people in special need of employment assistance, such as the handicapped and immigrant workers and their families.

The UK had submitted applications covering a wide field of activity by both government departments and other organisations. The 1975 allocations, which have been recently confirmed, include £20 million for the training of unemployed people in the assisted areas of Great Britain under the Training Services Agency's training opportunities scheme, while £2.2 million has been allocated for other schemes of training run by the Training Services Agency in the assisted areas.

A further £2.8 million will go towards the employment rehabilitation and training of disabled people in Great Britain by the Employment Service and Training Services Agencies, and £2.1 million, for employment transfer schemes run by the Employment Service Agency. In Northern Ireland £4.8 million has been allocated for similar rehabilitation, training and resettlement administered by the Department of Manpower Services.

In order to help ex-agricultural workers and workers in or leaving the textile industry £1.3 million will go towards training and transfer schemes in Great Britain and Northern Ireland and £1.2 million has been allocated for training under the community industry scheme.

A total of £4.4 million will go towards emergency measures financed by the Training Services Agency and largely administered by Industrial Training Boards to help with the training of unemployed young people under 25 years of age.

In addition, £372,000 has been allocated for other industrial training board training, including training in construction skills relating to oil exploration (the Construction Industry Training Board) and training in off-shore drilling technology (the Petroleum Industry Training Board).

A further £5 million has been allocated for measures to assist the integration into their social and working environment of migrant workers and their families, covering activities of the Community Relations Commission and operations run by local authorities under the Home Office's urban programme and under Section 11 of the 1966 Local Government Act.

Smaller allocations from the social fund include:

About £450,000 for private companies' training schemes, especially those in Northern Ireland receiving support under the Department of Manpower Services' training on employers' premises scheme.

£240,000 for training in rural areas of Great Britain run by the Council for Small Industries in Rural Areas and the Small Industries Council for Rural Areas of Scotland.

£120,000 for training schemes run by the Forestry Commission.

£95,000 for training by the Training Services Agency of divers for work associated with off-shore oil development.

£42,000 for training programmes run by nationalised industries.

Some £120,000 for training in tunnelling and shaft-sinking skills of unemployed people recruited locally for work on a hydro-electric scheme at Dinorwic, North Wales.

The commission's decisions on applications follow recommendations by its social fund advisory committee which has a tripartite membership of government, employer and trades union representatives. The committee met in March for the first time in 1976 when it considered a number of the smaller UK applications for 1976.

Favourable recommendations to the commission are expected in respect of applications by two companies in Northern Ireland and by one voluntary organisation in Great Britain working in the field of assistance for disabled people. The UK's larger applications for 1976 are expected to be considered at committee meetings in June and October this year.

. . . and more than £7 million in Feoga grants

Grants worth a total of £7,015,732 from the EEC's agricultural guidance and guarantee fund (Feoga) will go to 101 UK beneficiaries on the commission's second and final list of successful applicants under the 1975 programme for individual capital projects.

The projects, which will be receiving grant under Regulation 17/64/EEC, fall into the following broad categories:

	No. of projects	Grant
		£
Animal feedingstuffs	7	745,026
Milk processing	6	529,498
Meat and poultry processing	5	1,367,312
Other food processing	8	753,419
Fishing vessels	64	2,670,888
Fishery harbours	9	826,355
Other	2	123,234
	101	7,015,732

Applying for grants

Organisations and individuals in the UK may apply for grants from Feoga towards the cost of projects promoting the objectives of the common agricultural policy of the community. The government of the member state concerned must approve each project and be prepared to contribute to its financing.

Consideration will normally be given only to substantial projects. Another main feature of the scheme is that grants are available only for physical investment, such as in buildings and equipment. Details of the scheme can be obtained from the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, GAP II Division, 49/53 Parliament Street, London SW1A 2NH, tel. 01-233 4380 or 01-233 4398.

The community funds available for the scheme are limited, and the commission decide which of the projects from the UK and the other member states should be grant-aided and at what rate within the prescribed maximum of 25 per cent of eligible costs.

Feoga's 1976 programme

A total of 164 projects have been submitted from the UK for the 1976 programme of Feoga grants for individual capital projects. The projects fall into the following broad categories:

	No. of projects	Estimated cost
		£
Land drainage (arterial)	8	4,363,900
Agricultural co-operatives	8	4,341,300
Animal feedingstuffs manufacture	8	6,996,300
Milk and milk products	22	14,437,100
Meat processing	24	17,806,100
Poultry processing	40	19,390,400
Other food processing	14	37,211,300
Fishing vessels	14	2,844,900
Fishery harbours	3	900,300
Fish processing	4	1,425,200
Other fishery projects	2	2,374,500
Grain drying and storage	5	2,057,100
Other	12	8,014,300
	164	122,162,700

Commission satisfied by US decision to discontinue anti-dumping investigation

The 5 May decision by the US Treasury to discontinue investigations into alleged dumping of automobiles in the US by certain exporters, has satisfied the EEC commission.

Making the US announcement Treasury Secretary, William Simon, said that the US would conditionally discontinue its automobile dumping investigation against those foreign exporters who have been tentatively found to be selling into the US at prices lower than their home countries, so long as certain specialised assurances are received from such exporters concerning future prices to be charged on their products in the US.

'We believe that in this case the procedures we are following reflect the competitive forces that the anti-dumping law was designed to preserve. We are therefore prepared to discontinue our investigations against those companies as to which dumping margins have been found if certain assurances are received which will mitigate price differentials between home market and export sales in the future.'

One of the conditions of discontinuance will be careful monitoring of the US sales of companies into which Treasury's investigations have been discontinued.

Companies from five European countries were involved in the investigation – Germany, Great Britain, France, Italy and Belgium, together with Japan, Canada and Sweden. The EEC commission welcomed the fact that the US authorities had taken account of two elements emphasised by the commission during the EEC/US talks on 28-30 April. The problems of monetary fluctuations and the increased costs to European exporters of fitting anti-pollution devices to cars, now obligatory in the US.

The commission said that the US decision confirmed the effectiveness of the EEC/US six-monthly meetings and the decision bore witness to the US desire to avoid damaging a main sector of trade with the community although the implications of their decision could not yet be fully assessed.

The community's commitment to Cyprus

In a statement issued after the third meeting of the EEC/Cyprus association council on 4 May, the community delegation said that the EEC remained committed to developing its relations with Cyprus, in particular by the enlargement and strengthening of the present agreement for the benefit of the economy of Cyprus as a whole.

The community expressed the hope that the work being carried out towards this end within its institutions would, in the near future, culminate in bringing to Cyprus the full benefit of the community's co-operation.

The statement mentioned the community's concern with the present state of affairs in Cyprus, and reaffirmed the community's ambition to contribute towards the re-establishment of conditions enabling all the citizens of Cyprus to live once more in a climate of peace and stability.

During the meeting the Cyprus delegation had put its view on a number of outstanding problems as far as the working of the association agreement was concerned, in particular the problems involved the community's overall Mediterranean approach, as well as the question of Cyprus sherry.

EEC information

Free service for businessmen!
The EEC Information Unit helps firms of all types and sizes by answering general questions about EEC membership and by guiding them where necessary to more specialised information sources.
New customers are always welcome, particularly firms new to EEC questions.
The unit's address is:
EEC Information Unit,
Department of Industry,
1 Victoria Street,
London SW1 H 0ET.
Tel. 01-215 4301 (six lines).

More on the EEC

Information on EEC matters and about member states can often be found in other sections of 'Trade and Industry'. For this week's additional news, turn to the following pages:

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Fewer Britons work for commission

The numbers of British staff working for the EEC commission are relatively much lower than from the other member countries according to figures recently published by the commission.

Details of the number and nationality of staff employed in the community's institutions were supplied by the commission in reply to a question from Mark Hughes, a member of the Labour party delegation, in the European parliament.

Systematic recruitment of commission staff from the UK, Ireland and Denmark began in 1973. At the end of last year (see the figures below) the UK, which has 21.9 per cent of the community's population, was represented by 7.4 per cent of commission staff. By comparison, both Ireland and Denmark had a higher proportion of total staff than of total population.

The figures show that British secretaries (category C) were particularly few – only 3.2 per cent of the total – and there were only a few more at the category B level (4.9 per cent). In the A category – where the senior grades are on a national allocation – 12.3 per cent were British, and among the translators and interpreters (category LA) 14.5 per cent came from this country.

Breakdown of commission officials by category and nationality

	Nationality									
Category	D	**UK**	F	I	B	NL	L	DK	IRL	Other
A	558	**331**	476	573	353	168	67	77	60	23
LA	159	**131**	102	136	144	99	11	95	7	17
B	452	**113**	389	470	491	195	100	46	22	13
C	396	**92**	394	401	1,108	117	206	67	50	24
D	19	**7**	22	156	128	4	23	1	—	2
Totals	1,584	**674**	1,381	1,736	2,224	583	407	286	139	79

Harmonisation of safety signs

A draft directive which is intended to standardise all signs conveying prohibitions, orders, warnings and emergency instructions required at the workplace for reasons of safety* has been sent to the council by the commission.

The primary aim of this directive is to help combat industrial accidents and diseases but it will also help to eliminate some of the obstacles to freedom of movement for persons as the recommended signs will not require a knowledge of the local language.

The safety signs prescribed in the directive have been made as simple and striking as possible and no words at all have been used so that everyone, in particular foreign workers, can tell at a glance what must and must not be done. For this reason a certain use has been made of the familiar symbols used in road signs although the directive does not apply to signs used in rail, road, inland waterway, marine or air transport or to signs used for the transportation of dangerous materials.

Work on standardisation of safety signs in the workplace has progressed relatively slowly in the relevant committee of the international organisation for standardisation (ISO) and as a result many large firms have been producing their own special signs. Hence, in the various community countries there are now wide differences in the shape, colour and symbol of the signs used and to avoid misunderstanding it has often proved necessary to add a supplementary sign giving the meaning of the symbol in the local language.

The draft directive has been prepared with the co-operation of the experts of the national governments and conforms to their views. The advisory committee for safety, hygiene and health protection at work on which governments and the social partners are represented has also given its approval. Broadly speaking, the definition of the safety colours and safety signs follows the new ISO standards and allowance has been made for the most recent international experience gained with safety signs.

* COM(76) 132.

Have you a good export picture

Each week *Trade and Industry* publishes pictures illustrating Britain's export business. Companies with export successes are invited to send in the story with a photograph showing the goods in manufacture, ready for despatch, or, preferably, on arrival overseas. The story must, of course, reach us while it is still news. Send your export photographs to the Editor, *Trade and Industry*, Room 439 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET.

Generalised tariff preference scheme (GSP): restoration of normal duties

Trade and Industry of 27 February, 19 March and 16 April gave details of GSP tariff quotas exhausted and GSP ceilings reached up to 5 April. HM Customs have stated that the position on the restoration of normal duties for the month ending 3 May is as follows:

I TARIFF QUOTAS AND SPECIAL CEILINGS

Tariff heading	Description of goods	Customs quota reference*	Date UK quota share exhausted	Community butoir reached: duty to be re-imposed	
				On date	For goods from
42.02 A	Travel goods, etc. – of artificial plastic sheeting	1588		16.4.76	Hong Kong
42.03 A BII BIII and C	Articles of apparel and clothing accessories, of leather or of composition leather	1618	3.5.76		
55.05 BII	Cotton yarn, not put up for retail sale: Other: other: Measuring, per single yarn, per kg: more than 40,000m and up to 80,000m	3538	26.4.76		
55.09 AII	Other woven fabrics of cotton: Containing 85 per cent or more by weight of cotton: Other – unbleached, of a width of: – 85cm but not more than 115cm	3694	5.1.76	12.4.76	Pakistan
	– more than 115cm but not more than 165cm	3708	5.1.76	30.4.76	India
64.02 A	Footwear with outer soles of leather or composition leather, etc. – Footwear with uppers of leather:	4231		16.4.76	Brazil
ex 73.13	Sheets and plates, of iron or steel, hot-rolled or cold-rolled	4576		8.4.76	South Korea§
94.01 B	Chairs and other seats, etc. – Other	5067		7.4.76	Yugoslavia
94.03	Other furniture and parts thereof	5075		12.4.76	Yugoslavia
97.05 (S/C)	Carnival articles, entertainment articles, etc.:	5202		12.4.76	Hong Kong

* See HM Customs Tariff, Part 11
(S/C) denotes Special Ceiling.
§ This item refers to the limitation of imports charged against the United Kingdom quota from any one beneficiary country, viz. Decision 75/694/ECSC Article 3.

II CEILINGS

Tariff heading	Description of goods	Date of restoration of duties	
		From all sources	From particular sources (inner ceilings)
ex 28.42 AII	Carbonates of sodium anhydrite		Romania 2.5.76
29.22 AI	Methylamine and di- and tri-methylamine, and their salts		Romania 2.5.76
ex 29.35 Q	Melamine		South Korea 16.4.76
41.03 BII	Sheep and lamb skin leather, etc.: Other: other		India 2.5.76
41.04 BII	Goat and kid skin leather, etc.: Other: other	2.5.76	
44.13	Wood (including blocks, strips and friezes for parquet or wood block flooring, etc.)		Brazil 25.4.76
ex 44.25 B	Other, broom and brush bodies and handles, of wood:		Brazil 6.4.76
55.05 A	Cotton yarn, not put up for retail sale: Multiple or cabled, finished, in balls, or on cards, etc.		India 2.5.76
BI	Other: Measuring per single yarn 120,000m or more per kg	2.5.76	
60.04 A	Under garments, knitted or crocheted, not elastic nor rubberised – of cotton	2.5.76	
ex 61.04	Women's, girls' and infants' under garments – other than of cotton		South Korea 11.4.76
ex 61.05	Handkerchiefs – of cotton fabric	2.5.76	India 6.4.76
ex 61.05	Handkerchiefs – other than cotton	2.5.76	
70.14 B	Illuminating glassware, signalling glassware, etc.: Other		Hong Kong 6.4.76
87.10	Cycles (including delivery tricycles) not motorised		Yugoslavia 2.5.76
90.09	Image projectors, etc.		Singapore 2.5.76

Tariff quotas 1976: exhaustions

HM Customs have stated that the United Kingdom's shares of the following EEC tariff quotas have been exhausted:

UK tariff heading	Description of goods	HM Customs serial no. (Part 11 of the UK Tariff)
55.07 ex 55.09 58.04	Other woven fabrics of cotton, woven on handlooms	3678
73.02 C*	Ferro-silicon	4509

* Omitted from February's round up.

The United Kingdom's shares of the following EEC tariff quotas for imports from Portugal and Malta have also been exhausted:

UK tariff heading	Description of goods	HM Customs serial no. (Part 11 of the UK Tariff)
ex 22.05 CIIIa)1 and IVa)1	Port (in containers of 2 litres or less)	1251 (Portugal)
61.01 *	Men's and boys' outer garments	4401 (Malta)

* Omitted from last month's round-up.

The following United Kingdom tariff quotas for imports of paper and board and printed products from individual EFTA countries and Finland (see *Trade and Industry* of 12 December 1975) have also been exhausted:

UK tariff heading	Country of origin	HM Customs serial no. (Part 11 of the UK Tariff)
48.01 E11b)	Austria	2117
ex 48.01 E11b)1	Austria	2052
48.07 B1c)1	Finland	2605

Inquiries about current availability of preferences may be made to HM Customs and Excise, Central Tariff Quota Registration Unit, King's Beam House, Mark Lane, London EC3R 7HE, tel. 01-626 1515, ext. 2570.

OTAR helps exporters to EEC

If you export to EEC countries OTAR handouts on the following subjects may interest you:

- Circulation certificates
- Documentation – transit certificates
- Invoicing requirements
- Temporary suspensions of duty
- Preferential trading arrangements between third countries and the Community
- Labelling of products

Copies of these and other handouts can be obtained free of charge from the Department of Trade's OTAR section. OTAR helps exporters needing information about the tariff and other requirements of all overseas countries.

Telephone or write to:

Overseas Tariffs and Regulations Section (OTAR)
Export Services and Promotions Division

Department of Trade
Export House
50 Ludgate Hill
London EC4M 7HU
Tel. 01-248 5757, ext. 408/439/482
(EEC general inquiries)

Publications on the European Communities

Listed below are official publications on European community matters issued during the period 15 January-30 April 1976. All can be obtained from Her Majesty's Stationery Office. Orders, quoting the standard book number (which in the list is given in brackets after each title), should be sent to HMSO, PO Box 569, London SE1 9NH. The price inclusive of postage is given in parenthesis at the end of each reference.

Parliamentary publications

Command 6379. European communities No. 3 (1976). Agreement in the form of an exchange of letters between the European economic community and the People's Republic of Bangladesh on trade in fabrics of silk or of waste silk other than noil or of cotton woven on handlooms. Brussels, 24 October 1974 [0 10 163790 X] 4 pp. 12p (18½p).

Command 6381. European communities No. 4 (1976). Agreement between the European economic community and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan on trade in textile products. Brussels, 24 October 1975 [0 10 163810 8] 12pp. 22p (28½p).

Command 6391. European communities No. 5 (1976). Agreement in the form of an exchange of letters between the European economic community and the People's Republic of Bangladesh on trade in man-made products (handicrafts). Brussels, 24 October 1974 [0 10 163910 4] 7pp. 20p (26½p).

Command 6394. European communities No. 6 (1976). Agreement between the European economic community and the United Mexican States. 5 July 1975. The agreement entered into force on 1 November 1975. [0 10 163940 6] 8pp. 20p (26½p).

Command 6425. European communities No. 7 (1976). Agreement between the European economic community and the Republic of India on trade in textile products. The agreement entered into force on 1 December 1975. [0 10 164250 4] 16pp. 28p (34½p).

Command 6437. European communities No. 8 (1976). Agreements in the form of an exchange of letters relating to Article 9 of Protocol 1 to the agreement between the EEC and Israel concerning the importation into the community of tomato concentrates and of fruit salads originating in Israel. [0 10 164370 5] 8pp. 20p (26½p).

Command 6439. European communities No. 10 (1976). Agreement in the form of an exchange of letters, relating to Article 3 of Protocol 8 of the agreement between the EEC and the Portuguese Republic. Brussels, 5 December 1975. [0 10 164390 X] 4pp. 12p (18p).

Commission of the European communities

European documentation

1975/3. A new regional policy for Europe. The regional development fund. [0 11 511691 5] 15pp. 25p (31½p).

1975/4. The European community's financial system. Towards community solidarity. [0 11 935213 3] 35pp. 25p (34p).

Inventory of taxes levied by the state and local authorities in the member states of the European communities. 1974 edition (situation at 1 April 1974). [0 11 935241 9] 678pp. £11.00 (£11.62).

Ninth general report on the activities of the European communities in 1975. February 1976. [0 11 935319 9] 389pp. £2.40 (£2.82).

Court of justice of the European communities. Selected instruments relating to the organisation, jurisdiction and procedure of the court. [0 11 935383 0] 348pp. £3.10 (£3.26).

A study of the evolution of concentration in the United Kingdom textile industry. October 1975. [0 11 935432 2] 231pp. £3.50 (£3.92).

Conference on work organisation, technical development and motivation of the individual. Brussels, 5-7 November 1974.]0 935428 4] 242pp. £1.85 (£2.27).

Supplements to the Bulletin of the European communities

8/75. Employee participation and company structure. [0 11 935194 3] 107pp. £1.50 (£1.66).

1/76. European union – a report by Leo Tindemans, Prime Minister of Belgium, to the European council. [0 11 935290 7] 32pp. 60p (71p).

Statistical office of the European communities

Regional statistics. The community's financial participation in investments 1973. [0 11 935192 7] 123pp. £1.70 (£1.96).

Transport. List of local authority areas. [0 11 935294 X] 344pp. £2.30 (£2.92). List of ports. [0 11 935295 8] 99pp. £1.45 (£1.73). List of railway stations. [0 11 935293 1] 107pp. £1.10 (£1.36). 3 volumes for £3.70.

Non-Parliamentary publications

COI reference pamphlet 137. Britain and the European Community. [0 11 700786 2] 71pp. £1.00 (£1.11).

New EC legislation

The legislation listed below has been published in the *Official Journal of the European Communities* as indicated against each item. The *Official Journal* is now published in English and copies should be obtained from HMSO. Information about the items listed, in so far as other member states' requirements are concerned, is available to British exporters from Department of Trade, Export Services and Promotions Division, Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU (tel. 01-248 5757, ext. 7174/482/408). Other information may be obtained from the reference point given at the end of the item.

Common agricultural policy

The texts of the following regulations which affect the various agricultural sectors in the EEC have been published in the *Official Journal of the European Communities*:

General. Regulation (EEC) 1026/76 amending Regulation (EEC) 571/76 following the fixing of a new exchange rate to be applied in Italy in agriculture (*Official Journal* L116, 3 May 1976).

Regulation (EEC) 1040/76 amending Regulation (EEC) 1380/75 laying down detailed rules for the application of monetary compensatory amounts (*Official Journal* L118, 5 May 1976).

Oils, fats and oilseeds. Regulation (EEC) 1046/76 on detailed rules for the implementation of the special measures for the determination of offers of olive oil on the world market and the Greek market (*Official Journal* L119, 6 May 1976).

Customs regulations

Corrigendum. The *Official Journal* L119, 6 May 1976, contains the following correction to Regulation (EEC) 754/76 on the customs treatment applicable to goods returned to the customs territory of the community (published in *Official Journal* L89, 2 April 1976):

Page 3, Article 3 (2), second subparagraph, third line:
for: 'of import duties chargeable upon them small be',
read: 'of import duties chargeable upon them shall be'.

EEC/Malta agreement

Corrigendum. The *Official Journal* L117, 4 May 1976, contains the following correction to Regulation (EEC) 666/76 concluding the agreement extending the provisions governing the first stage of the agreement establishing an association between the European economic community and Malta (published in *Official Journal* L81, 27 March 1976).

Page 1, third 'Having regard' should read as follows:
'Having regard to the opinion of the European parliament (*)
The following footnote should then be added:
'(*) *OJ* No. C79, 5.4. 1976, page 45'.

Imports from non-member states

The *Official Journal of the European Communities* L120, 7 May 1976, contains the texts of the following decisions:

Radio-receivers. Decision 76/441/EEC authorising France not to apply community treatment to radio-receivers, whether or not combined with a sound recorder or reproducer, falling within subheading 85.15 A III of the common customs tariff, originating in Taiwan and in free circulation in the other member states.

Decision 76/442/EEC authorising France not to apply community treatment to radio-receivers whether or not combined with a sound recorder or reproducer, falling within subheading 85.15 A III of the common customs tariff, originating in Japan and in free circulation in the other member states.

Decision 76/444/EEC authorising France not to apply community treatment to radio-receivers, whether or not combined with a sound recorder or reproducer, falling within subheading 85.15 A III of the common customs tariff, originating in South Korea and in free circulation in the other member states.

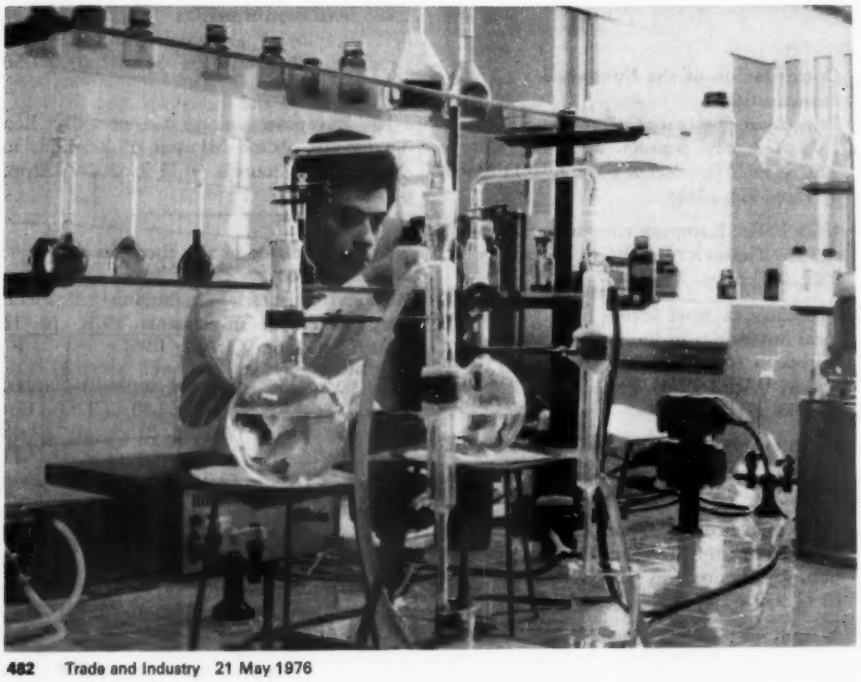
Decision 76/445/EEC authorising France not apply community treatment to radio-receivers, whether or not combined with a sound recorder or reproducer, falling within subheading 85.15 A III of the common customs tariff, originating in Hong Kong and in free circulation in the other member states.

Toys. Decision 76/443/EEC authorising France not to apply community treatment to toys of wood and other (except motors and movement mechanisms for toys and working models used for recreational purposes, and parts thereof), falling within subheadings 97.03 A and ex B of the common customs tariff, originating in Japan and in free circulation in the other member states.

Applications for copies of the 'Official Journal of the European Communities' containing the legislation referred to should be made to HMSO and not to the inquiry points given in the notices.

British pharmaceutical group opens lab in Italy

Analytical chemistry in the new research and development laboratory of Wellcome Italia at Pomezia, south of Rome, opened on 10 May. It is the first medical research laboratory to be established by The Wellcome Foundation Ltd., the British-owned international group of pharmaceutical companies, anywhere outside its main research centres in Britain and the United States. The Pomezia laboratory carries the status of a university department for the provision of documentation for the registration of new drugs and will make available new Wellcome discoveries more quickly for prescription by doctors in Italy.



'T & I' index inquiries

Readers wanting to know when articles and items of information were published in *Trade and Industry* should consult the published indexes which are issued free to subscribers. For material published in recent months, inquiries of this kind can be made to the Department of Industry Library's indexing section, tel. 01-215 5842.

BOTB News

Roaring start for Export Year: Sir Frederick Catherwood

Export Year, which starts officially on 1 June, is off to a roaring and highly encouraging start. Making the point in a speech to the Association of British Chambers of Commerce in Birmingham on 13 May, BOTB chairman Sir Frederick Catherwood said that Export Year 'has obviously struck the right note'. He also said that there had been requests from 2,000 companies for a booklet on how to run their own Export Year (see below).

On export prospects, Sir Frederick said: 'There has seldom been a time when it made better economic sense to switch the efforts of a manufacturing company to exports. We do not propose to exhort companies to embark in a patriotic but costly exercise. We want to help them to make money by passing on the best practices, the accumulated expertise of those who have been in the game longest and played it most successfully.

'There are five factors which taken together are likely to produce the biggest expansion of exports we have had for many a long day. First of all, the pound is undervalued. This is not a desirable condition. It increases our import bill and lowers our living standards. But an undervalued currency can help to launch an economy into orbit. It launched the Germans and Japanese in the fifties and look where they are now!

'But an undervalued currency also needs a tough pay deal or the higher cost of imports gets passed straight on in industrial costs. We have that pay deal – at enormous cost in managerial salaries – but we have it and I believe it will stick.

'Then, an undervalued currency needs restraint on home consumption. This is helped by the pay deal. But it is also helped by restraint in Government expenditure. The Government have not cut this at a time of high unemployment, but it will level off and then, as exports get going to take up the unemployment, hopefully it will drop. The borrowing requirement may well bring pressure for a cut even earlier. But exports will not be choked off by home consumption.

'Of course, the undervalued currency is not nearly so effective if export demand is stagnant, but in one country after another, demand is rising. The three key economies, the United States, Germany and Japan are all moving firmly ahead and others will follow. So the market is there.

'And, for the first time, we are full and committed members of the community in a time of expansion. We were late for the last European boom and we choked it with our own home boom. Then we had two years of slump. But now the tariff-free market and the rising demand ride together. We should do well. We have a tiny fraction of the imports in each community country. In too many cases it is smaller than the share of the small countries, Holland and Belgium, so we should do better in straight competition with community members. There is even more reason why we should gain share from industrial suppliers outside the community, America, Sweden, Japan and others. These are the trading conditions we fought for and these are the conditions we have now won.

'Finally there is, I think, a growing concern on the part of the average worker to see that this pay deal does not run into the sand, that it really puts us on the road to long-term prosperity.'

BOTB's seventh export conference goes to Manchester

Manchester will be the venue for BOTB's seventh regional export conference aimed at helping firms improve their export performance. The two-day event on 25-26 May will be organised by the BOTB and led by its chairman, Sir Frederick Catherwood.

On the first day the chairman and HRH The Duke of Kent, vice-chairman designate, will between them visit three firms in the area – Edgar Pickering of Blackburn, Berisfords Ltd. of Congleton and James Galt and Co. Ltd. of Cheadle, Cheshire. On the second day a fourth firm, General Engineering (Radcliffe) Ltd. of Radcliffe, will be visited by HRH The Duke of Kent before he joins the conference at the Midland Hotel, Manchester.

Detailed case histories describing the exporting techniques of these firms have been prepared by Dr. J. C. Leontiades of the Manchester Business School. They will be presented to the conference in audio-visual form by the broadcasting personality Brian Redhead, former editor of the *Manchester Evening News*, with the support of Sir Frederick Catherwood and representatives of the case study firms.

The invited delegates will include representatives from shop floor and management in the area, and from the 'invisibles' sector as well as from manufacturing industries.

The conference is one of a series of similar events being organised throughout the country by the BOTB to provide a forum for discussion of common export problems and techniques.

Running your own export year

Straightforward suggestions for a practical programme which will enable an organisation to keep its workforce aware of the role exports play in their well-being and their firm's success are made in a booklet now available from BOTB.

Entitled 'A Guide to Your Export Year' the booklet is being distributed to interested firms throughout the UK. Special guests, outside visits, photographs, display material and house journals are among the topics covered, as well as details of the assistance available from Export Year adviser Roy Earnshaw and the Export Year Office.

Copies of the booklet are available from the Export Year Office, BOTB, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET, tel. 01-215 5180/5773.

Catalogues of Government Publications

Her Majesty's Stationery Office offer their customers a comprehensive service which will enable them to judge whether any other titles in the vast output of Government Publications would help them in their work or leisure. Full information about this service can be obtained by sending a postcard to Publicity Section, Her Majesty's Stationery Office, Room C46, Atlantic House, Holborn Viaduct, London, EC1P 1BN, asking for the CATALOGUE SERVICE LEAFLET.

Minister to explore trade opportunities in Canada

Michael Meacher, recently appointed Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Trade, plans a ten-day visit to Canada at the end of the month to see the market at first hand and to talk to provincial ministers and businessmen.

He spoke of the visit when addressing the Canada/UK Committee on Tuesday.

'I shall have particularly in mind the special opportunities for British enterprise in Western Canada, stemming from the development of the Athabasca oil sand deposits in Alberta and the natural resources of British Columbia,' said Mr. Meacher. 'As you all know very well the BOTB's North American Advisory Group has already done a great deal to bring these opportunities to the notice of British firms. I am grateful to them for all the work they have done.

'Over the past year or so trade between Britain and Canada has inevitably suffered because of the world slump. Last year Canada's exports here fell nearly 13 per cent in valu, reflecting both the recession and the decline in the world market prices of some important commodities. The value of our exports to Canada rose by 10 per cent, but this reflected higher prices and the actual volume of trade was down.

'We expect further strong increases in Britain's total exports during the months ahead. Part of this will be in markets like the OPEC countries, where British exporters have achieved considerable success. But the fact is that the world recovery is being led by the industrial nations. Britain is therefore determined to improve its performance in industrialised countries to ensure that recovery from recession in our own country will be based squarely on rising exports.

'We have always regarded Canada as a key market. This year we will be maintaining our trade promotion programme at the same high level as in the 12 months ending last March – when the BOTB supported some 172 companies at 16 Canadian trade exhibitions and over 100 company representatives visited Canada as members of BOTB-sponsored trade missions. This, of course, reflects only a proportion of such activity: a growing number of British businessmen have recently been looking at the Canadian market in anticipation of increased business.

'I am very glad that a new dimension is being added to the relationship between our two countries at the level of Government – promoted industrial co-operation, where we have responded to the Canadian Government's initiative. . . . We are encouraging co-operation in accordance with our respective Government policies – such as our desire in Britain for Canadian investment in this country and for a stake in Canadian resource industries which have traditionally provided essential materials for our manufacturing industry; and the Canadian Government's objective of diversifying Canda's industrial base. . . .

'So far the Government departments in our two countries have been working out promising areas for industrial co-operation. Meanwhile there was a first mission of Canadian industrialists in the construction industry to Britain this February – during which the companies involved in both countries made useful contacts.

'At the same time we have taken part with other members of the European Economic Community in similar missions between Canada and the Community: on forest products, non-ferrous metals and uranium. The agreement between Canada and the community which is now being negotiated is expected to provide a formal framework for such missions between Canda and the community.

'I have already said that I regard Canada as a key market. By this I mean a major and expanding one that we have to cultivate more intensively now and in the medium and long term.'

World's largest ferry company buys British hovercraft

The world's largest ferry company, the Hong Kong Yaumati Ferry Co., which annually transports over 150 million people, is buying a custom-built British sidewall hovercraft to operate on certain routes between the islands of Hong Kong.

The craft is a HM2 mark 4 sidewall hovercraft, value approximately £300,000 being built by Hovermarine Transport Ltd. of Southampton, which is the only commercial producer of this type of craft.

The HM2 mark 4 is longer than the standard mark 3 version and will take 50 per cent more passengers – a total of 92 – using only 15 per cent more fuel. It is being constructed as a result of a particular requirement from the Hong Kong company which is a good customer of the British firm, since it already operates four of the HM2 mark 3 craft on some of the 25 routes it operates around the Crown Colony.

Two leading representatives of the Hong Kong Yaumati Ferry Co. recently visited Britain under the inward mission scheme run by the BOTB's Overseas Visitors Bureau. Edmond Lau, the company director and general manager and William Choy the engineering manager, had technical talks on the construction and design of the craft which will be delivered to Hong Kong in July this year.

On board the partially constructed Hovermarine Transport HM2 mark 4 are (in the background) William Choy, engineering manager, David Nicholas, director, Hovermarine Transport Ltd. of Southampton, Peter Hill, Hovermarine Transport's special projects director, and Edmond Lau, director and general manager of the Hong Kong Yaumati Ferry Co.

Britain has largest non-German contingent at Dusseldorf

Britain will be the largest non-German contributor to the International Mining Exhibition in Dusseldorf this month. The exhibition, Bergbau '76, from 22-29 May, has drawn a big response from the UK mining industry, with 43 British companies taking part, in a joint venture group supported by the British Overseas Trade Board and the Association of British Mining Equipment Exporters.

Alex Eadie, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Energy, will visit the British stands on 25 May accompanied by Sir Derek Ezra, chairman of the National Coal Board who is also a member of the BOTB.

The British exhibitors will show the latest developments in mining and tunnelling machines, coal cutting equipment, roof support and conveyor systems and a wide range of ancillary mining products. The 1976 venue for this biennial event is particularly appropriate as Dusseldorf is less than 20 miles from the centre of the pit coal and lignite mining industries of the Ruhr.

Running concurrently with the exhibition and on the same site is the ninth World Mining Congress where experts from 30 mining countries will deliver more than 50 lectures. For the UK Sir Derek Ezra will give the opening lecture – 'A New Future for Coal'.

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Exhibitions and Fairs

Encouraging results at Basle clock and jewellery fair

From Peter Feiner, Commercial Officer, British Embassy, Basle: Europe's fourth watch, clock and jewellery fair within the 60th Swiss industries fair in Basle once again asserted itself as the world's first and foremost buying and information centre for watches, clocks and jewellery. A total of 1,150 exhibitors from 15 countries showed their goods at the event from 24 April to 3 May. Among them 48 British companies exhibited in two main groups, one sponsored by the Watch and Clock Manufacturers Association and the other by the Jewellery and Giftware Federation. The products covered very high quality reproduction clocks, middle-class clocks and watches, quartz and non-quartz clocks and watches and components such as moduls, movements, bracelets and straps.

In the jewellery section exhibitors displayed gold and silverware, jewellery findings, precious and semi-precious stones and costume jewellery.

Throughout the fair business was very lively and the good orders taken exceeded by a great margin those taken at the last fair. Fair newcomers were on the whole very pleased and made valuable contacts. Most of the exhibitors have in fact already expressed their desire to participate next year.

Business generated as a result of the fair shows every sign of being excellent, no doubt the high quality of the products and the present value of the pound have helped.

Among exhibitors reporting very good results were those displaying packaging and window display material. These firms report success in appointing agents worldwide, including Australia, Japan, Middle East, Europe and the Americas.

The fair has established itself as a truly international meeting point for potential customers from every part of the world, where the buyer has every conceivable opportunity to find the product of his choice. It is clear that British participation in the future is an absolute must.

Scientists see British equipment at Anaheim

From Peter S. Fishman, Vice-Consul (Commercial), Los Angeles: More than 8,000 scientists from the United States and 28 foreign countries travelled to Anaheim, California, in the shadow of Disneyland's Matterhorn Mountain, to attend the 60th annual meeting of the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (Faseb).

The meeting, which is billed as the largest annual scientific meeting in the world, took place from 11-16 April at the Anaheim Convention Center, where, in addition to hearing several hundred scientific papers (including 20 from the UK), the attending scientists were able to see the latest in scientific equipment exhibited by more than 350 exhibitors from around the world.

Notable among these exhibitors were seven British firms taking part in the seventh joint venture in this event, sponsored by the BOTB and the Scientific Instrument Manufacturers Association. The firms exhibited a wide range of products, from the very simple to the latest developments in computer-based technology.

Metals Research Ltd., Royston, exhibited in conjunction with their US subsidiary, Cambridge Imanco Division, Cambridge Instrument Co. Inc., Monsey, New York. This event was only the second show at which the company has exhibited their new Quantimet automated, computer-based image-analysing equipment. This new product was well received and stimulated a number of inquiries.

Biolab Ltd., who have exhibited at previous Faseb meetings, were particularly pleased with the strong interest expressed by attending scientists in their unique line of Omnifit laboratory valves and connectors.

Grant Instruments (Cambridge) Ltd., exhibited in co-operation with their US agent Bench Scale Equipment of Dayton, Ohio. Their stand featured a comprehensive range of products including temperature control systems, unstirred water baths and thermostats.

Slee Medical Equipment Ltd., had their products exhibited by their US subsidiary, Slee International. Their exhibit included their new Ultra-microtome Cryostats Type TUL.

A new thermoregulator line, as well as lab baths and stirrers, were shown on the Techne (Cambridge) Ltd., stand. The firm also exhibited in co-operation with their US subsidiary, Techne Inc.

The special attraction on the Vickers Instruments Ltd., stand was the M85 Scanning Microdensitometer, which is marketed in the US, along with other Vicker's microscope products, by Vickers Instruments Inc., Woburn, Mass.

Ultrasonic cell disruptors, including the only one in the world specifically designed for continuous flow operation, were shown by Ultrasonics Ltd., together with their US agent, British Instruments Inc. of New York.

Among almost 350 other exhibitors were companies from Germany, Holland, Japan, Sweden, Switzerland and Italy. In addition many foreign products, including those of UK firms, were to be found on the stands of US manufacturers and distributors. All participants commented that, in spite of a smaller attendance than at the meeting's usual venue in Atlantic City, those attending appeared to be the decision-makers within their organisations.

Faseb remains one of the leading shows of its kind, and once again the participation of UK companies should prove extremely productive in their selling efforts in this important and growing market.

Leicester firms to visit China next spring

The Leicester and County Chamber of Commerce has been invited to send a trade mission to China in the spring of 1977. The mission, which will be in the country for 10 days, will be based on Peking.

An invitation was issued by the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade and was passed to the Leicester Chamber of Commerce by the Embassy of The People's Republic of China in London.

The Chinese have also said which Leicester firms they would be glad to see and arrangements are now going ahead for the mission to take place.

The invitation follows lengthy negotiations conducted by the chamber's chief executive, Leslie Milliard, who visited the Embassy last year to acquaint the Chinese trade officials with the quality and range of products that Leicester has to offer.

Tell the world about your exports – through the BBC

Every day the BBC tells the world about British business, industry, finance, technology, agriculture and science.
If you have an interesting story about British inventions and successes or outstanding export orders, why not tell the BBC about it?
Firms are often named and many thousands of inquiries are fed back each year.
A leaflet headed 'Tell the world' is available.
Write to Export Liaison Unit, BBC External Services, Bush House, London WC2B 4PH or phone 01-240 3456, ext. 2039 (telex 265781, cables Broadcasts London W1).

Scope for more British agricultural equipment in Spain

From Richard Burr, Commercial Department, British Embassy, Madrid: With about £14 million of equipment on display in a 75,000m² area the 10th International Agricultural Machinery exhibition at Zaragosa from 2-11 April was an impressive show.

For the second year Great Britain had official representation in the form of an information stand, manned by members of the Embassy and the Consulates-General Barcelona and Bilbao. This year we were fortunate to have a Maff expert on research and development of agricultural machinery in Britain, with us for most of the show.

Serious inquiries at the stand were made about British goods by visitors from all over Spain and seven other countries. Particular interest was shown in sophisticated harvesting and seeding machinery, irrigation equipment, veterinary instruments, livestock handling and management aids, cattle, and pigs.

In the fair in general, equipment from some 25 British firms was on show to a value of approximately £100,000, excluding tractors, which is considerably more than any other year. But it is clear that there is scope for more: over 20 different makes of sugar beet harvesters – all but one imported – were exhibited, nearly 30 makes of baler, and several precision seeders.

The stand served a three-fold purpose: the dissemination of information direct to visitors; for inquiries which were followed up later through individual firms or through the EIS; and as a meeting place for British export managers and Spanish importers, the number of these meetings showing increased interest in the Spanish market. British businessmen operating in Spain in a wide range of agricultural interests including components, silos and livestock insurance also used the stand as a meeting place.

The well-run Zaragosa agricultural show is the leader in its field in Spain and also attracts many businessmen from abroad. It is hoped that there will be an expanded British official presence at it next year, and inquiries about this are welcome.

Popular and well-organised Italian pig fair

From W. P. Hartshorne, Commercial Section, British Embassy, Milan: This popular and well-organised International Pig Fair, held this year at Reggio Emilia from 29 April-2 May, has taken a firm place in the joint venture calendar for Italy.

This year's UK participants were the British Livestock Co., Meteor Pigs and the Northern Ireland members of the National Pig Breeders Association, who took part under the direction of the BOTB and with sponsorship of the National Pig Breeders Association.

Once again there was a sizeable foreign entry, as well as a national one, with participants from eight different countries. In the international judging section for breeding pigs, the UK won two second prizes and one third prize in the large white section, and a second, third and fourth prize in the Hampshire section.

By the end of the fair all British pigs on show had found a buyer and the British participants were, as usual, highly satisfied with the results obtained at this event.

Britain wins ballot for 1982 anaesthesiology congress

From R. D. Cooksey, Commercial Officer, British Embassy, Mexico: Inaugurated by the President of Mexico, Luis Echeverria, the World Federation of Societies of Anaesthesiologists held its sixth world congress in Mexico from 24-30 April at the Congress Unit of the Mexican Social Security Medical Centre. The commercial exhibition was housed in the basement of the centre.

The venues for the next two world congresses, 1980 and 1984, were decided upon by ballot and Germany (Hamburg) was chosen for the 1980 congress – 'Welcome to Hamburg' literature was distributed immediately after ballot – and Australia (Sydney) for 1984.

The 1982 European congress was also in contest, the main contenders being Poland, Italy and Britain, and this came to us. The British Tourist Authority played a useful role here, hosting a successful reception on the eve of balloting.

This year's congress was attended by about 4,000 delegates, about 10 per cent of the total membership of the federation.

Firms from 12 countries took part in the commercial exhibition, including a contingent of 10 British firms sponsored by the BOTB and the British Hospitals Export Council had an information stand in the British area. ICI had a large independent stand. The British presence was the second largest, following America closely.

Because all exhibits had to enter Mexico under a temporary import permit, the exhibitors were not allowed to sell off the stand, and most of them could have sold everything on display. However, the exhibitors did receive a great number of inquiries from all over the world, especially from Latin America. In addition to appointing agents for the Mexican market, several of the exhibitors have most likely found agents for South American countries.

The fact that this congress was held in Latin America was of special interest to the exhibitors, giving them an opportunity to make contact with buyers and potential agents in this part of the world. It will, after all, be 12 more years before British manufacturers of anaesthesiology equipment have the opportunity of meeting under one roof so many delegates from Latin America.

Finally the exhibitors were brought face to face with that growing obstacle to straight trading: import barriers to protect growing local industries. A commercial benefit of the exhibition is the intention by several of the exhibitors to pursue MUL or licensing arrangements, thereby assuring a continuous British presence in the Mexican and Latin American Free Trade Area markets.

British light industry in Moscow

British firms are again taking part in the Equipment and Technological Process in Light Industry Exhibition (INLEGMASH) to be held in Moscow from 25 May-8 June. A total of 18 companies are participating with the backing of the BOTB and the co-operation of the British Textile Machinery Organisation.

British products on show will be mainly textile machinery including circular knitting machines, heat transfer printing machines, drying machinery, machines for processing continuous filament synthetic yarn and stitching machines.

British exhibitors at INLEGMASH have already well-established trading links with the USSR and the other East European countries, they are confident that their participation again in 1976 will help to cement existing relationships and to make new contacts.

During 1975 total exports of textile machinery to East European countries amounted to £34,893,000 and over half (£19,514,000) went to USSR alone.

Have you a good export picture?

Each week *Trade and Industry* publishes pictures illustrating Britain's export business. Companies with export successes are invited to send in the story with a photograph showing the goods in manufacture, ready for despatch, or, preferably, on arrival overseas. The story must, of course, reach us while it is still news.

Send your export photographs to the Editor, *Trade and Industry*, Room 439, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET.

Trade Information

Anti-dumping investigation into imports of ladies' rubberised fabric raincoats from Hong Kong and the Republic of of Korea: duty imposed on Hong Kong

An anti-dumping duty of £1.50 per raincoat is to be imposed on imports of ladies double and single texture rubberised cotton or rayon raincoats originating in Hong Kong from 21 May 1976. This decision follows an investigation by the Department of Trade of an anti-dumping application announced on 4 September 1975. As a result of this investigation the Department is satisfied that imports of these raincoats originating from Hong Kong have taken place at dumped prices; that this dumping has caused, and threatens further, material injury to the UK rubberised raincoat industry; and that it is in the national interest to take anti-dumping action.

The Order imposing this duty allows relief to be granted where, on application being made, the Department is satisfied that particular goods have not been dumped, or the margin of dumping is less than the duty. Copies of the Order, the Anti-Dumping Duty Order, 1976 (SI 1976/736) may be obtained from HMSO, 49 High Holborn, London WC1 or by post from HMSO, PO Box 569, London SE1 9NH.

The investigation announced on 23 October 1975 into imports of similar raincoats from the Republic of Korea has also been completed but no evidence of dumping was found. Accordingly no action will be taken against these imports.

Anti-dumping investigations completed

Multi-colour offset printing presses

The Department of Trade announced on 27 October 1975 that it had accepted for investigation an application for anti-dumping action against imports of multi-colour offset printing presses from Japan. The investigation has now been completed and the Department is satisfied that the machines were supplied at dumped prices during 1975 and that this dumping has caused material injury to the British industry.

Following notification of the findings of the investigation, however, the Japanese exporter has given an undertaking to revise the export prices to eliminate the margins of dumping found and it has therefore been decided not to impose anti-dumping duty as long as this undertaking is observed.

The undertaking given by the Japanese exporter applies to shipments made on and after 30 April 1976.

Saccharin

The Department of Trade has also completed its investigations into allegations that saccharin orginating in Japan and the Republic of Korea has been imported at prices which constitute dumping. The announcement of the acceptance of an application for anti-dumping action against these imports was made on 23 October 1975. In the case of the Republic of Korea the Department has concluded that dumping has occurred and that this dumping has caused material injury to the British producer of saccharin. The margins of dumping found during the investigation were such that it has been decided to retain the anti-dumping duty of £0.5511 per kg.

In the case of Japan the Department has concluded that there is no evidence of dumping to justify the retention of the current duty of £0.0917 per kg and this duty will be removed from 10 June 1976 by an Order – the Anti-Dumping and Countervailing Duties Order 1973 (Amendment) Order 1976 (SI 1976 No. 737). Copies of this Order will shortly be available from HMSO, 49 High Holborn, London WC1 (price 5p) or by post from HMSO, PO Box 569, London SE1 (price 6½p).

The anti-dumping duties on saccharin originating in Japan and the Republic of Korea were imposed by the Anti-Dumping and Countervailing Duties Order 1973. Until 31 October 1975 they were suspended by the Anti-Dumping (Temporary Suspension) (No. 2) Order 1975. They were re-imposed on 1 November 1975 by the Anti-Dumping Duties (Temporary Suspension) (Revocation) Order 1975 (SI 1975 No. 1714).

Inquiries: 01-215 5757, (multi-colour printing) and 01-215 5758 (saccharin).

Application for temporary exemption from import duty

The Department of Trade is considering applications for the temporary exemption from import duty of the materials listed below on the grounds that they are not made in this country or that the supply available is not substantial having regard to the existing United Kingdom demand.

Representations are invited from manufacturers in this country who consider they are, or will be within a reasonable period, in a position to supply a substantial proportion of the United Kingdom demand for these materials, or who are interested in their future production.

Temporary exemptions come into effect on the operative date of the Treasury order in which the materials are specified, and will remain in operation until the date shown in column 3 below or for such shorter period as may be justified.

Interested parties who wish to make representations should address them to General Division, Department of Trade, Kingsgate House, 66-74 Victoria Street, London SW1E 6SJ (tel. 01-215 5515), giving the respective reference shown below and stating whether their names may be passed to the applicants for temporary exemption.

Representations should be received by 4 June 1976.

Tariff heading	Description	Exemption required until	Reference
81.04KII	Titanium alloy wire, coated and in coil form, for use in the manufacture of aircraft fastenings	31 December 1977	GT 15927
94.01B	Hydraulic positioning and locking actuator and associated controls for aircraft seats (Hydro-lok)	31 December 1977	GT 15836

Withdrawal of anti-dumping action on acrylic sheet

An application made earlier this year for the imposition of anti-dumping duties under the Customs Duties (Dumping and Subsidies) Act 1969 on acrylic sheet imported from the USA has been withdrawn by the applicants and the Department of Trade proposes to take no further action.

In requesting withdrawal of the application, the applicants point to a significant change in the volume and price of the allegedly dumped imports of the material since they applied for anti-dumping action, and in these changed circumstances they consider the threat of continuing material injury has been considerably reduced.

It is open for the applicants to apply for anti-dumping action should they at any time have fresh evidence that acrylic sheet is being imported into the UK at dumped prices and that there is resulting material injury to the industry.

Notices to Importers

Issued by the Department of Trade, Import Licensing Branch, Charles House, 375 Kensington High Street, London W14 8QH.

No. 1556: Imports of woollen suits from Romania, Czechoslovakia and the German Democratic Republic and Berlin (East)

Restrictions were imposed on imports of woollen suits originating in Romania, Czechoslovakia and the German Democratic Republic and Berlin (East) with effect from 11 March. Details of the quotas and licensing arrangements were set out in Notice to Importers No. 1547 published in *Trade and Industry* on 19 March. The licensing arrangements outlined in that Notice provided for the allocation of quotas by the Department of Trade on the basis of importers' past trade. It has now been agreed that within the overall quota limits allotted by the United Kingdom the countries of origin concerned will administer the quotas. This will bring the arrangements for woollen suits into line with those applying for the allocation of quotas of other restricted imports from those countries.

For woollen suits shipped on and after 1 June 1976 the appropriate authority of the country of origin will issue quota certificates. Import licences will be issued, on production of these certificates, up to the limits of the quantities of quota available for the remainder of the year. All applications for licences, accompanied by the appropriate quota certificate, should be made on Form ILB/A and sent to the Department of Trade, Import Licensing Branch, at the address shown above.

Licences already issued in respect of imports of woollen suits from these countries under the current arrangements will be revoked with effect from 1 June 1976. The individual licence holders concerned have been notified of this and informed about the future arrangements.

Inquiries: Import Licensing Branch. 01-603 4644 ext. 268.

Big ECGD-backed loans for steel expansion programmes.

£50 million loan for Brazilian steel expansion programme. A £50 million loan backed by the Export Credits Guarantee Department will help finance contracts placed in the UK for the third phase of the Brazilian steel expansion programme. The loan has been made available to Siderbras, the Brazilian state-owned holding company, by Baring Bros. and Co. Ltd. acting on behalf of a consortium of London clearing and Scottish banks.

The Brazilian companies undertaking the expansion are Companhia Siderurgica Nacional (CSN), Companhia Siderurgica Paulista (COSIPA) and Usinas Siderurgicas de Minas Gerais SA (USIMINAS).

To qualify under the terms of the loan a contract must have a minimum UK value of £100,000 and be placed by May 1978.

Exporters requiring further details of this facility should contact either Mr. K. J. Huggett of ECGD (tel. 01-606 6699, ext. 7369) or Mr. A. A. M. Paton of Baring Bros. (tel. 01-588 2830).

Loan of £8.9 million for USSR steel industry. The Export Credits Guarantee Department has guaranteed a loan of £8.9 million arranged by Morgan Grenfell acting on behalf of the Bank of Scotland to the Bank for Foreign Trade of the USSR, Moscow.

The loan, which is being made under the trade credit agreement with the USSR signed in early 1975, will help finance the UK portion awarded by V/O Stankoimport to Davy Loewy Ltd., Sheffield, to supply giant forging complexes of 6,000 tonnes and 8,000 tonnes capacity. These will form part of the present plan for extending the heavy forging capacity of the USSR's steel industry.

Davy Loewy won the contracts for the new presses, which are due to be commissioned in late 1978, in consortium with the Marubeni Corporation of Japan.

Export pictures

Each week *Trade and Industry* publishes pictures illustrating Britain's export business. Companies with export successes are invited to send in the story, with a photograph showing the goods in manufacture, ready for despatch, or, preferably, on arrival overseas. The story must, of course, reach us while it is still news. Send your news and photographs to the Editor, *Trade and Industry*, Room 439, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET.

Democratic Republic of Madagascar: change of name

In accordance with Article 1 of the constitution of 30 December 1975 the name of the Malagasy state has been changed from Malagasy Republic to Democratic Republic of Madagascar. Inquiries: CRE 01-215 5334.

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ENCIRCLE TI 24 ON PAGE 519 FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Tariff and Trade Notices

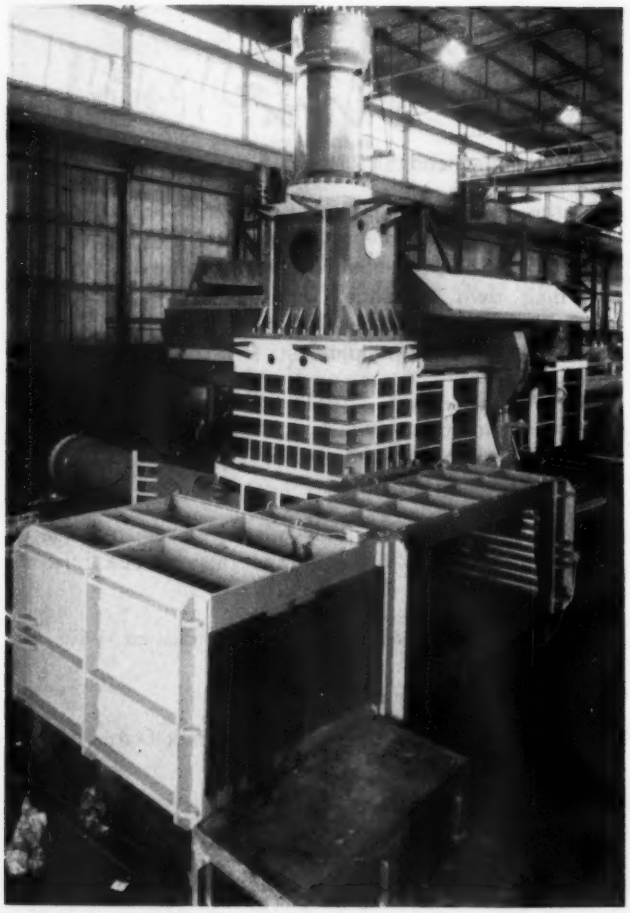
Norway

Ban on the sale of certain food utensils. The Norwegian authorities have issued regulations banning the sale of certain food utensils which give off dangerous quantities of poison. The regulations came into force on 11 March 1976. Further details will be published when they become available. Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 458/461.

Labelling of pre-packed foodstuffs. *Trade and Industry* of 19 March 1976 announced that new regulations on the labelling of pre-packed foodstuffs would come into force on 1 July 1976. The Norwegian authorities have now announced that the operative date for paragraph 8 of the regulations relating to the marking of the final date of consumption for foods which will keep for more than 12 weeks has been postponed until 1 April 1977. No further information is available. Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 458/461.

The £1.2m rubbish squasher for Norway

Huge solid blocks of rubbish, compressed to one-sixth of normal volume, are produced by this hydraulic baling press built for the city of Bergen, Norway. The press was made at Bridgend, Glamorgan by Harris-Economy Ltd., UK subsidiary of American Hoist. The £1.2 million order for the press with conveyor and ancillary equipment was placed with American Hoist (Europe) Ltd., and involves an £850,000 loan agreement with Hambros Bank, covered by the Export Credits Guarantee Department. When erected in Bergen, at a municipally-owned stone quarry, the press will be used on a land reclamation scheme, sinking the solid blocks of rubbish into the ground, extending the life of the rubbish dump by 20 years. The land will then be used as a recreation site.



Spain

Petrochemical products: import duties suspensions or reductions. The Spanish *State Gazette*, 28 April 1976 published decree 852/1976 extending the duty exemption and/or reduction on certain petrochemical products for another 3 months period from 1 April to 30 June 1976. The tariff headings affected are:

Tariff no.	Description	Import duty
29.01A-1	Butadiene	Free
29.08D	Ethylene glycol	4.5 per cent
29.15D-1	Dimethyl terephthalate	Free
29.22A-4	Hexamethylenediamine monomer adipate	Free
29.27B	Acrylonitrile monomer	Free
29.35G	Caprolactams	Free
39.01G	Ethylene-glycol polyterephthalate	4.5 per cent
39.02G-1	Acrylonitrile copolymers	Free
39.02H-1	Polyvinyl-butyral polyvinyl-formal	Free

The decree is valid from 1 April 1976. Inquiries: OTAR 01-245 5757, ext. 462/471/472/433.

Food processing industries: The Spanish *State Gazette*, 1 May 1976, published an Order of 8 April 1976 establishing the minimum size of industries in the food manufacturing and processing sector which will be classified as industries of a preferential intest. These dimensions are:

Packing and or bottling of vegetable oils: 8,000 bottles or packs per hour.
Freeze drying of agricultural products: 6 tonnes per day of fresh agricultural products.
Freezing of agricultural products: Each case to be considered on its merits of location, profitability, etc.

A copy of the original text is available in Spanish. Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757, ext. 462/471/472/473.

Coal: duty free quota. The Spanish *State Gazette*, 20 April 1976, published decree 914/1976 of the Ministry of Commerce establishing a duty-free quota of 15,000 metric tonnes for the importation of coal (BN heading 27.01 A) for the production of electrical power. The coal will be imported during a three-month period starting from 30 April. The Ministry of Commerce will allocate the import licences for the quota. Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 462/471/472/473.

Further information

In many cases further information on the notices published on these pages is available to British exporters from the Department of Trade. The main branches concerned are: Commercial Relations and Exports (CRE) Divisions, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET (tel: direct dialling); and Overseas Tariffs and Regulations Section (OTAR), Export Data Branch, Export Services and Promotions Division, Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU (tel: 01-248 5757). In each case, the relevant information source is indicated at the end of the notice by its initials (OTAR or CRE) and, in the case of OTAR, the telephone extension. In the Tariff and Trade Notices section countries are grouped by continents as far as possible; they are listed alphabetically on the contents page.

Pulp: duty-free quota. The Spanish *State Gazette*, 28 April 1976, published decree 850 of the Ministry of Commerce establishing certain duty-free quotas for the importation of pulp, during 1976:

47.01-A-3-a-2a. Chemical pulp, sulphate or soda, bleached or semi-bleached, with a content of alphacellulose not less than 94 per cent. Quota 7,000 tonnes.

47.01-A-3-b-2a. Chemical pulp, bisulphite, bleached or semi-bleached, with a content of alphacellulose not less than 94 per cent. Quota 3,000 metric tonnes.

These quotas will be distributed by the Ministry of Commerce. Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 462/471/472/473.

Cocoa: duty-free extension. The Spanish *State Gazette*, 30 April 1976, published decree 915 of the Ministry of Commerce extending for three months, from 21 March to 20 June, the suspension of import duties to be paid on the importation of raw cocoa (BN heading 18.01 A). Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 462/471/472/473.

Steel products: duty-free quotas. The Spanish *State Gazette*, 28 April 1976, published decree 851/1976 of the Ministry of Commerce establishing quotas of steel products free of import duties. The quotas will be in force during the whole of 1976 and the decree is backdated to have effect from 1 January 1976. The products are the following:

73.06-A. Steel ingots of more than 5,000 kilos in weight.
73.07-B-3-a. First quality flat blooms, at least 5m long. Total for above headings is 1,335,000 tonnes.

73.07-A-1 and 73.07-B-1. Square or rectangular blooms, first quality. Quota 50,000 metric tonnes.

73.12-D-1 and 73.13-D-3-3-a. First quality tinplate and strips of tinned iron or special steel, at least 457mm in width. Quota 20,000 tonnes.

73.13-D-1-a, 73.13-D-3-e, 73.13-D-4 and 73.15-D-8-a. Hot rolled plate with a width of at least 2,000mm for use in the manufacture of high pressure containers, boilers, ovens and large structures. Quota 10,000 metric tonnes.

73.13-D-2-b and 73.13-D-2-c. Cold rolled plate suitable for the manufacture of bathtubs. Quota 9,000 tonnes.

73.13-D-2-d. Coils (cold plate) not softened, with a maximum thickness of 0.4mm for the manufacture of tinplate.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 462/471/472/473.

Portugal

Additives for edible oils. Portuguese *Diario do Governo* no. 83, 7 April 1976, published Order 208/76, which announces regulations on permitted additives in edible oils. Further information is available from OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 458/461.

Italy

Quotas for goods from Japan. The Italian *Official Gazette*, no. 114, 30 April published an Italian ministerial decree dated 16 April containing the import quotas for goods originating in Japan for the period 1 October 1975 to 30 September 1976. Copies of the decree are available in Italian from OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 466/467/288.

Greece

Edible oil: import licensing. According to the Greek *Government Gazette* vol. II, issue 264, 28 February 1976, items under the following Greek tariff headings are transferred to import list 'A' from 16 February 1976.

15.07 A	Olive oil
ex 15.07 B	Sesame oil, cotton seed oil, groundnut oil, soya-bean oil
ex 15.07 D	Palm oil
15.07 GI	Other edible oil, not specified

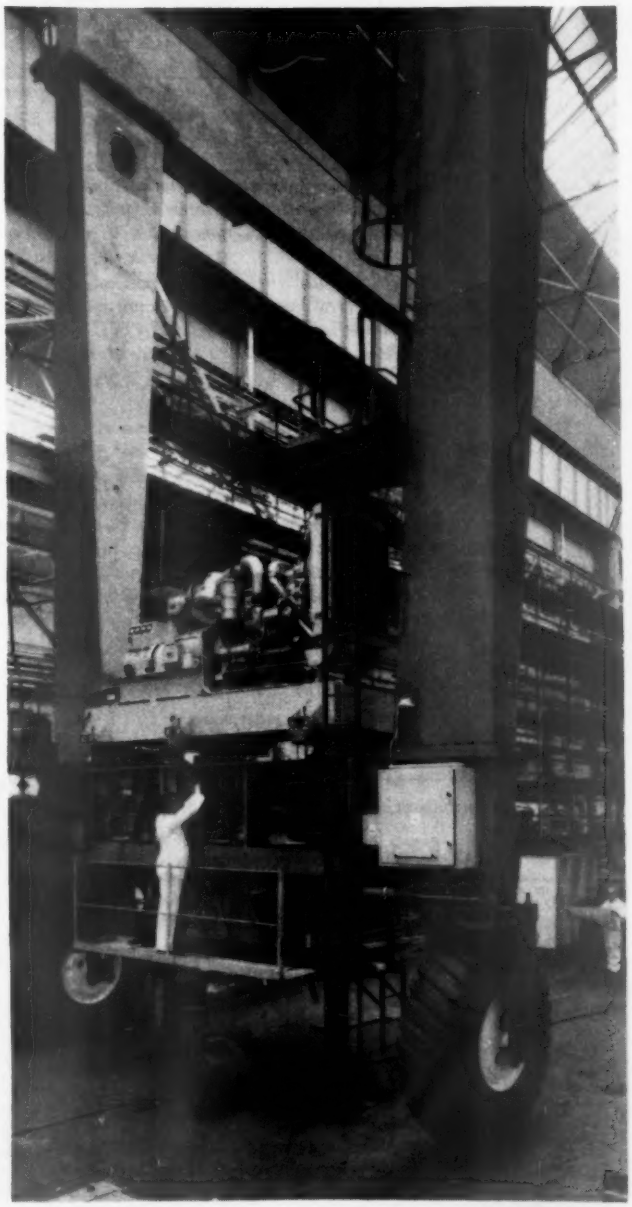
Items in List A can be imported only after Government approval. Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757, ext. 439.

Broiler chicks and eggs: duty temporarily abolished. According to the Greek press of 7 April 1976 import duty, other taxes, dues, and contributions levied on broiler chicks and eggs imported between 23 March 1976 and 30 June 1976 are abolished. Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757, ext. 439.

CRE tel. Direct dialling **OTAR** telephone 01-248 5757
Extensions to **OTAR** numbers are given at the end of each notice

Container-handling unit for Portugal

A Paceco-Vickers Transtainer being manufactured at Scotswood Works, Newcastle upon Tyne – the first of three 40-ton container-handling units for Portugal. The North-East manufacturing units of Vickers made a large contribution to the £50 million worth of export orders secured by the company in 1975. Close-on 60 per cent of the orders obtained by the Newcastle and Gateshead factories during the year were for overseas, and the proportion of exports passed the 60 per cent mark in the first quarter this year.



Egypt

Spirituous beverages: duty increase. The following increases in import duty on BN 22.09 have been announced:

22.09	Spirits (other than those of heading 22.08); liqueurs and other spirituous beverages; compound alcoholic preparations (known as 'concentrated extracts') for the manufacture of beverages:	
b	Spirituous beverages:	
	1 Spirits	750%
	2 Other	750%
c	Sweetened or aromatised beverages	750%
d	Other spirituous beverages	750%
e	Compound alcoholic preparations	750%

No further information is available. Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 458/461.

Tunisia

Import licensing: global quotas. The Tunisian *Official Journal*, no. 25, 6 April 1976, announced the opening of the following quotas in 1976:

BN no.	Description	Quota (in Tunisian Dinars or metric tonnes)
04.02	Milk and cream, preserved, concentrated or sweetened	14,000 T
04.03	Butter	2,000 T
04.04	Cheese	2,000 T
ex 08.05	Dried fruits excluding almonds and apricots	400 T
ex 08.12		
08.01A	Bananas	PM*
08.06A & B	Apples, pears	PM*
09.01A	Coffee	3,500 T
09.02	Tea	6,000 T
09.04A	Pepper	600 T
17.01	Sugar	120,000 T
ex 40.11B	Inner tubes	300,000 TD
ex 40.11Ca	Tyre cases, including tubeless tyres weighing each	
ex 40.11E	15kg or less	500,000 TD
50.09		
51.04		
56.07		
52.02		
53.11	Woven and knitted fabrics	2,100,000 TD
55.08		
55.09		
54.05		
58.04		
60.01		
60.03		
60.04		
60.05	Knitwear, apparel and accessories excluding shirts	500,000 TD
61.01 to		
61.07		
61.09		
62.02	Bed, table and toilet linen	150,000 TD
63.01	Old clothing	600,000 TD
ex 64.01 to	Footwear excluding sports and ballet footwear	40,000 TD
64.04		

* PM = Pour Memoire (quota may be allocated if necessary).

No further information is available. Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 461.

CRE Commercial Relations and Exports Divisions
Department of Trade
1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET
Tel. Direct dialling (see end of each notice)

OTAR Overseas Tariffs and Regulations Section,
Export Data Branch
Export Services and Promotions Division
Department of Trade
Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU
Tel. 01-248 5757 (extension at end of each notice)

Registered trade marks

The lists of tariff, customs and import regulation changes in overseas countries published in this section of *Trade and Industry* sometimes contain words which are registered trade marks in the United Kingdom. So far as is practicable, all lists of goods are checked before publication from this point of view. Items which fall into this category are preceded by the letters rtm. Readers should note that this prefix signifies that the words are registered as trade marks in the United Kingdom but that in the present context are assumed to refer generally to products of the descriptions stated in brackets. While every attempt will be made to ensure that the scrutiny is complete, the lists may contain other words which are registered as trade marks in the United Kingdom or in other countries but which it has not been possible to identify.

South Africa

Tariff changes. The following amendments were published in the South African *Government Gazette*, 30 April 1976:

R.724	BN 67.04 and 83.02. (1) It is made clear that subheading No. 67.04.10 covers hairpieces of any kind. The rate of duty is also amended from 20 per cent or 150c each less 80 per cent of the fob price to 20 per cent or 1,365c per kg less 80 per cent of the fob price. (2) Specific provision is made for automatic door closers at the existing rate of duty.
R.726	BN 21.07, 29.26, 38.19 and 84.17. (1) the rate of duty on saccharin and its salts and sweetening substances with a basis of saccharin is amended from 440c per kg net (General) and 330c per kg net (MFN) to 330c per kg net (General). (2) Specific provision at a rate of duty of 330c per kg net, is made for preparations consisting of saccharin or its salts and other substances. (3) Specific provision at the existing rate of duty, is made for electro-thermic warmers for paper towels under tariff heading No. 84.17. These warmers were previously classifiable under tariff heading No. 85.12.
R.729	BN 48.21. Specific provision is made for unperforated cards for use with Jacquard and similar textile machines and the rate of duty thereon is reduced from 20 per cent to 3 per cent.
SALES DUTY	
R.727	Item 146.00 BN 84.17. This amendment is consequential to an amendment to Part 1 of schedule No. 1 to the Customs and Excise Act, 1964. Rate of sales duty is 6.5 per cent.
INDUSTRIAL REBATES	
R.725	Item 311.13. BN 51.04. Provision is made for a rebate of the full duty on woven fabrics of man-made fibres (continuous) including woven fabrics of monofil or strip of heading No. 51.01 or 51.02 of schedule No. 1, for the manufacture of tubular or endless woven fabrics of a kind commonly used in machinery.
R.728	Item 301.04. The provision for a rebate of duty on enzymic catalyst preparations for the manufacture of egg powder is withdrawn.
R.730	Item 317.06, BN 73.18. Provision is made for a rebate on the duty on tubes or pipes of iron or steel, for the manufacture of drag link assemblies.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 471/472/473/462.

Tariff application. Customs Tariff Application List 16/76, published in the South African *Government Gazette*, 14 May 1976, contains an application to the Board of Trade and Industries for increase in duty on:

1 Various lamps and glass envelopes, for motor vehicles, classifiable under tariff subheadings 85.20.80, 85.20.85 and 85.20.99; and
2 Various chemicals classifiable under tariff subheadings 29.16.60, 29.16.40, 29.16.43 and 28.45.15

British trade organisations thought to be interested in the application are being informed. Any British firm affected which wishes to make representations to the South African Board of Trade and Industries and belongs to a trade organisation should, therefore, first contact its own trade association. If any firm proposes to make independent representations to the South African authorities and requires further information concerning the application, it should address inquiries to CRE 01-215 5274.

Metrication of measuring instruments. The Metrication Department of the South African Bureau of Standards has drawn attention to the following further details regarding the metrication of measuring instruments.

Since 1 January 1971 imported measuring instruments of all kinds have had to be calibrated in the proper metric (SI) units only. To date this requirement has been applied only to 'loose' instruments. On

1 January 1977, the requirement will be extended to all instruments whether loose or built into machinery, installations, implements, sub-assemblies etc., with the following two exceptions:

New machine tools, which may have metric or dual capability.

Second-hand machine tools, which may have metric, dual or imperial capability.

These two exceptions are made to cater for certain requirements which still exist in industry but in view of world-wide metrication trends South African users are being advised to acquire machine tools with SI calibrations wherever possible.

Apart from these exceptions it will be illegal to import any measuring instrument which is not calibrated in accordance with SI-practice from 1 January 1977. There will, however, be provision for exemptions to meet exceptional problems.

Inquiries: CRE 01-215 5274.

Madagascar

Global quotas for 1976: The Republic of Madagascar *Official Journal*, 3 April 1976, published notice 1006 setting out global quotas for 1976. Separate quotas are published for importers with resale outlets from those published for industry and a third list is published open to both categories. Also listed are commodities the importation of which is prohibited and certain commodities for which prior authorisation is needed before the granting of import licences. Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 462/471/472/473.

Australia

Drilling machines: request for temporary protection. The Department of Industry and Commerce in Australia has received a request for temporary protection against imports of drilling machines, bench or pedestal type, having a drilling capacity in mild steel not exceeding 60mm in diameter, falling within tariff item 84.45.300 of the customs tariff.

Interested parties, either in support of, or in opposition to, the request may submit their views to the Department for consideration. Requests for temporary protection are initially received and considered by the Department. At a subsequent stage they may be referred to the Temporary Assistance Authority for inquiry and report within 30 days of the date of the reference.

Any temporary protection which may be accorded the goods by the Government after receipt of the report by the Temporary Assistance Authority would be in the nature of a holding action pending Government consideration of the question of long term protection for the local industry following inquiry and report by the Industries Assistance Commission.

Exporters should note that it has been made clear that should the need for urgent action emerge from these inquiries, goods ordered but not cleared for home consumption at the date of the announcement will be subject to the terms of the action. Australian importers have been urged therefore to exercise caution in placing orders overseas and in entering into financial commitments on such orders as special consideration may not be given to outstanding commitments should action be taken by the Government.

Evidence must be formally submitted at a public hearing, either by a nominated representative of the firm or trade association concerned or through the Australian British Trade Association, 21 Tothill Street, London SW1 (01-799 7447) who will represent UK interests if authorised. The association charges a fee for its services, the amount varying according to the work entailed in the preparation of a submission and whether the interested party is a member. UK firms or trade associations intending to submit evidence should advise the Secretary, Industries Assistance Commission, PO Box 80, Canberra ACT 2600, Australia, as soon as possible through their accredited agent, indicating the goods with which they are concerned and the request they anticipate submitting. Ref. CRE 75/76. Inquiries: CRE 01-215 5319.

Footwear: Industries Assistance Commission interim report. The Australian Government has accepted the recommendation of the Industries Assistance Commission in its interim report on footwear, that there be no variation in the present quota level, that is 140 per cent of the volume of imports in 1972-73, but that import licensing controls be extended to cover sand boots and shoes and parts for footwear (excluding parts for thongs).

It has been decided that sand shoes and sand boots should be incorporated into the non-leather footwear licensing category, and to give effect to this decision a special import quota of 1.7 million pairs of footwear will be introduced for the period 1 May to 30 September, based upon imports of sand boots and sand shoes. After taking account of goods in transit and in bond, individual allocations will be based on imports in the period 1 July 1974 to 31 December 1975. Quotas thus allocated may be used to import sand shoes and sand boots and other types of footwear falling within the existing non-leather category, while quota currently available for the importation of non-leather footwear may also be used to import sand boots and sand shoes.

The import licensing controls introduced on parts for footwear would restrict imports to an annual level of 140 per cent by value of imports in 1973-74. Quotas for individual importers would be allocated on the basis of their imports cleared for home consumption in 1973-74, after account has been taken of goods in bond and in transit.

The Government will review the long term protective needs of the industry when they receive the final report of the Industries Assistance Commission, expected by 30 November 1976.

To assist the planning of future orders, initial allocations of quotas for the 1976-77 quota year in the leather category will be based upon current quota levels, and allocations in the non-leather category will be related to an annual level of 18.1 million pairs, with the increase being allocated to importers of sand boots and sand shoes based upon their import performance in the 18 months to December 1975. Quotas for parts for footwear would be related to 140 per cent of imports in 1973-74.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 468/469/401.

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CRE Commercial Relations and Exports Divisions
Tel. Direct dialling (see end of each notice)

OTAR Overseas Tariffs and Regulations Section
Tel. 01-248 5757 (extension at end of each notice)

New Zealand

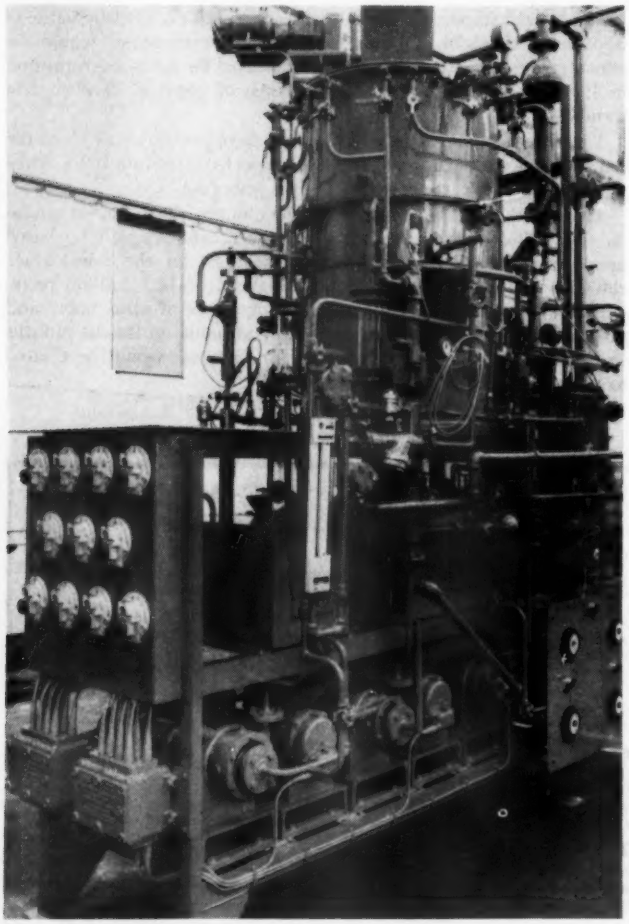
Industries Development Commission reports. Copies of the following New Zealand Industries Development Commission reports are available from Commercial Relations and Exports Division:

1 Sausages and other prepared or preserved meat (tariff items 16.01.000, 16.02.002, 16.02.009).
2 Certain worked timber and articles of timber (tariff items 44.13.001, 44.13.101 and tariff headings 44.21, 44.22).
3 Rye, barley, oats and maize (tariff headings 10.02, 10.03, 10.04, 10.05).
4 Rennet (tariff items 21.07.021, 29.40.001, 29.40.002).
5 Pipe organs and electro-magnetic musical instruments (ex tariff heading 92.03 and tariff heading 92.07).
6 Washers and gaskets, etc. (tariff headings 39.07, 40.14, 42.04, 45,03, 45,04, 86.64).

Ref. CRE 511/75. Inquiries: CRE 01-215 5321.

Solvent extraction plant for New Zealand

Rosedowns continuous rotary pilot solvent extraction plant before leaving the works of Simon-Rosedowns Ltd., Hull, for the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, Petone, New Zealand. The unit, which has a capacity of 10kg per hour, will be used initially to extract waxes from lignite and peat which are found in considerable quantities on the Pacific Islands off the coast of New Zealand. The company has supplied four similar plants – to the USSR, Sweden and Thailand.



United States

Alcoholic beverage labelling. The US *Federal Register*, 5 May 1976, announced that the Food and Drug Administration has issued a manual explaining the labelling requirements for alcoholic beverages under the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act which becomes mandatory from 1 January 1977. The manual is available from Industry Guidance Branch (HFF-342), Attn. Alcoholic Beverage Labelling Manual, Bureau of Foods, US Food and Drug Administration, 200 C Street S.W., Washington DC 20204. The FDA has also invited comments and suggestions on the manual. A copy of the text is available to British exporters from OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 456/457/7312.

Hazardous products. The US *Federal Register*, 29 April 1976, published details of rules proposed by the CPSC to allow certain banned hazardous products to be modified thus avoiding the alternative to repurchase under provisions of the Federal Hazardous Substances Act. Comments (five copies) before 1 June 1976 to Consumer Product Safety Commission, Washington DC 20207. Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 456/457/7312.

Ceramics: tariff duty. The US *Federal Register*, 4 May 1976, published details of a presidential proclamation modifying tariff concessions on some ceramic tableware. A copy of the text is available. Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 456/457/7312.

Belize

Customs documentation. Since the introduction by Belize of the single-tier tariff on 20 March 1976, it is no longer essential to supply the officially prescribed form of invoice and certificate of value and origin, although there is no objection to the use of this form. A single commercial invoice is now sufficient. No facsimile signatures are acceptable on these customs documents. Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 7312/456/457.

Entry tax. The Belize authorities have abolished entry tax. Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 7312/456/457.

Panama

Bacon: import quota. The Panamanian Price Control Department has restricted the import of bacon (whether or not in air-tight containers) to a quota of 10 gross kilos annually. Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 476/474.

Grenada

Stamp duty. By Act 39 of 1976, the Grenada authorities have introduced a new rate of stamp duty of 5 per cent of the cif value on each set of customs bills of entry inwards. For goods exempt from the payment of import duty, the fee for stamps on bills of entry is $1.00 per set. Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 7312/456/457.

Trinidad and Tobago

Playing cards: import licensing. By Notice no. 1 of 1976, the Trinidad and Tobago authorities have stated that an import licence is required for the importation of playing cards (BN 97.04). Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 7312/456/457.

Brazil

Pharmaceutical raw materials: exemption from prior deposit. A list of raw materials for use in the manufacture of pharmaceuticals has been exempted by the Brazilian authorities from the requirement of prior deposit for imports. The Central de Medicamentos has said that the import deposit scheme was having an adverse effect on the price of medicines. In order to qualify for exemption the importer will have to describe, to CACEX, the goods to be imported as well as the product in which they will be used, and also the tariff number of the goods. In order to avoid speculative imports CACEX will check the compatibility between the goods to be imported and the product for which they are intended.

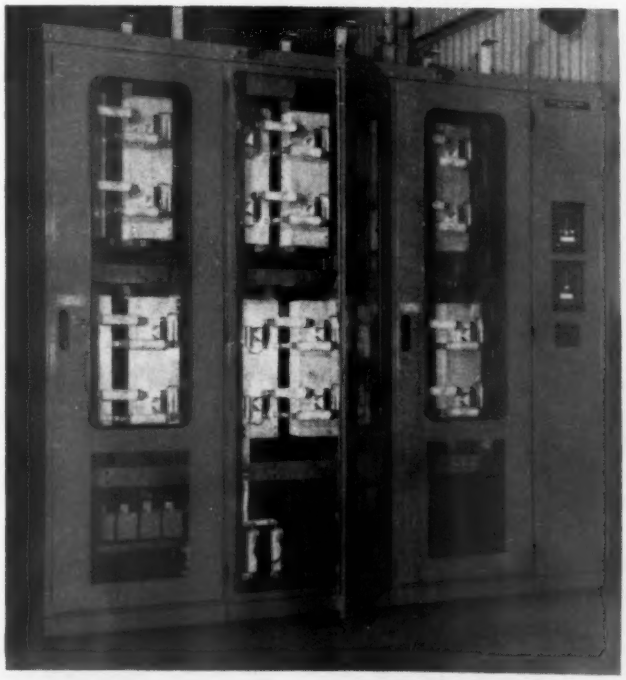
The goods exempted are the following:

Tariff no.	Product
17.02.01.01	Glucose (chemically pure)
17.02.02.01	Lactose (chemically pure)
28.12.01.00	Boric acid
28.20.02.00	Aluminium hydroxide, including alumina gel
28.30.06.00	Calcium chloride
28.34.17.00	Potassium iodide
28.38.08.00	Barium sulphate (precipitated)
28.42.02.00	Sodium carbonate acid (sodium bicarbonate)
28.47.38.00	Potassium permanganate
28.54.00.00	Hydrogen peroxide (oxygenated water)
29.02.06.00	Bromoformium (tribromomethane)
29.02.17.00	Trichloromethane (chloroform)
29.04.30.00	Manitol (manite)
29.04.34.00	Propyleneglycol (propane-1, 2-diol)
29.13.49.00	P-nitroacetophenone
29.14.06.02	Ethyl dichloroacetate
29.14.07.04	Benzyl benzoate
29.14.15.01	Phenylacetic acid
29.16.01.08	Sodium citrate
29.16.05.00	Acetylsalicylic acid (aspirin)
29.16.17.00	Phenoxyacetic acid
29.22.29.00	B-phenylethylamine
29.22.37.00	Dibenzylethylenodiamine
29.23.05.00	Triethanolamine
29.23.27.00	Phenylglycin
29.23.39.00	Aminobenzoic acid, its salts and esters
29.25.01.00	Barbituric acid, its salts and esters
29.25.04.00	Acetyl-para-aminophenol
29.25.06.00	Acetyl-para-phenitidine (phenacetin)
29.25.12.00	Phenylacetamide
29.25.13.00	Hydrantoin, and its substituion derived salts
29.25.18.00	Lydocain
29.26.03.00	Orthobenzoic sulphamide (saccharin) and its salts
29.26.13.00	Hexamethylenotetramine (hexamin, firmin), its salts and derivatives
29.31.30.00	Acetyl methionine
29.31.32.00	Methionine
29.31.33.00	Thio Acetazone (P-acetylamino-benzaldeic thio semicarbazone TB1) and its derivatives
29.31.36.00	Diamino diphenylsulphone (dapsone)
29.34.03.00	Organo-antimonial compound
29.34.04.00	Siloxone or any other organic silicon compound
29.35.06.00	Hydroxyquinoline and its salts
29.35.05.00	Quinoline and its salts
29.35.08.00	Chloroquine (diethylamino methylbutilamino chloroquinoline) and its salts
29.35.11.00	6-penicillanic acid
29.35.13.00	Phenothiazine derivatives, except dye-stuffs
29.35.14.00	Isonicotinic acid and its hydrazide
29.35.21.00	Diethylenodiamine (piperazine and its salts)
29.35.23.00	Dimethylphenylpyrazolone, its salts and derivatives
29.35.24.01	Phenyl-1-dimethyl-2-3-dimethylamino-4-pyrazolone (dimelamino-analgesin)
29.35.24.29	Any other phenyl dimethyl dimethylamino pyrazolone (aminopyrin)
29.35.42.00	Dextromethorplan hydrochloride (romilar)
29.35.44.00	Sodium phenyldimethylpyrazolone-methanoaminomethane sulphonate (methampyrone)
29.35.47.02	Coumarin
29.36.01.00	Orthosulphamylbenzoic acid
29.36.02.00	P-Dipropylsolphamylbenzoic acid
29.36.06.00	Phthalylsulphacetamide
29.36.07.00	Phthalylsulphatiazol
29.36.08.00	Formosulphathiazol
29.36.09.00	Marfanil (homosulphanilamide hydrochloride)
29.36.13.00	Succinylaminophenylsulphonamide
29.36.15.00	Sulphacetamide
29.36.16.00	P-Aminobenzenesulphonamido-pyrimidine
29.36.17.00	Sulphaguanidine
29.36.20.00	P-Aminobenzenesulphonamide
29.36.25.00	Sulphisoxazole
29.36.26.00	Toluenesulphonamides (ortho- and para-)
29.36.28.00	Sulphamethoxypyridazine
29.36.29.00	Sulphamethoxazole
29.36.33.00	4-Sulphanylamido-5,6-dimethoxy-pyrimidine
29.36.34.00	Acetazolamide
29.36.36.00	Hydrochlorothiazide
29.36.37.00	Carbutamide
29.36.38.00	Tolbutamide
29.36.39.00	N'4(beta-2-methoxy-5-chloro-benzamide-ethyl)benzol-sulphunyl-N'-cyclohexylurea
29.38.00.00	Provitamins and vitamins, natural or produced by synthesis (including natural concentrates), derivatives thereof used primarily as vitamins, and intermixtures of the foregoing, whether or not in any solvent
29.39.00.00	Hormones, natural or reproduced by synthesis; their derivatives used principally as hormones; other steroids used as hormones
29.40.04.00	Thrombophostin
29.40.06.00	Hyaluronidase
29.40.09.00	Pepsin
29.41.04.00	Digitalis glycosides
29.41.05.00	Strophanthin
29.42.03.00	Apomorphine
29.42.05.00	Atropine
29.42.06.00	Caffeine
29.42.08.00	Cinchonidine
29.42.09.00	Cinchonine
29.42.10.00	Cocaine
29.42.11.00	Colchicine
29.42.13.00	Curarine
29.42.15.00	Dihydrocodinone (dicidid)
29.42.16.00	Dihydroergotamine
29.42.17.00	Dihydromorphinone (dilandid)
29.42.18.00	Ephedrine
29.42.19.00	Emetine
29.42.20.00	Ergobasine (ergometrine)
29.42.21.00	Ergotamine
29.42.23.00	Ergotoxine
29.42.24.00	Hyoscine
29.42.25.00	Eserine (physostigmine)
29.42.26.00	Sparteine
29.42.27.00	Strychnine
29.42.28.00	Ethylmorphone (dionine)
29.42.29.00	Hyocyamine
29.42.31.00	Homatropine
29.42.32.00	Lobeline
29.42.34.00	Methylmorphine (codeine)

No further information is available at present. Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 474/476.

Chicago Transit Authority buys 26 traction rectifiers for $7 million

GEC Rectifiers Ltd., Stafford, has won an order worth over $7 million from the Chicago Transit Authority for 26 rectifiers (2,500kW) with associated transformers and switchgear for 13 substations supplying dc power for the Chicago rapid transit system. The rectifiers are of the naturally air-cooled silicon type. The order, to be completed during 1977, will increase the total capacity of GEC rectifiers supplied to Chicago to 109,000kW and the total of GEC silicon rectifiers for traction duty in the American continent to nearly 600,000kW. The photograph shows an example of the type of rectifier equipment to be supplied.



Chile

Import and payment procedure simplified. In order to reduce paper work and central controls, and in view of improving foreign currency availability, the Chilean Central Bank issued on 22 April regulations simplifying the import and payment procedures for most imports up to US$1,500 (or equivalent) in value fob. Import permits (prior import registrations) will not be required in such cases, and remittance of payment (under other than letter of credit) will not be conditioned, as in the general import regime, to the purchase of the foreign exchange after the arrival of the shipping documents, and to the clearance of the goods from Chilean customs before remittance to the foreign supplier may be made.

The payment system for the under US$1,500 imports enables purchase of the foreign exchange by the importer before placing the order. Under a subsequent ruling (5 May 1976) the local banks have been empowered to advance foreign currency out of their own resources (where available) for immediate remittance up to the full value of the operation.

A copy of the regulations, in Spanish, is available to British exporters from OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 474/476.

Import duty amendments. *Trade and Industry*, 12 March 1976, reported that a new customs tariff had been issued, incorporating reduced rates of duty on many commodities.

Due to the failure of the Andean Pact countries to reach agreement by 31 December 1975, the Minimum Common External Tariff (AEMC) did not come into operation on 1 January 1976 and it has now been established that the Chilean customs authorities are at present disregarding the AEMC rates of duty. As a result, with the exception of certain goods affected by the Andean Pact industrial sector agreement on metal manufactures, Chilean national rates of duty which are lower than the AEMC rates are now being imposed on many imports from the United Kingdom.

British exporters who responded to the *Trade and Industry* notice 12 and were given revised rates of duty on their products are requested to check these rates with OTAR section as a further reduction may be applicable. Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 474/476.

Parts for mine drilling bits. Chilean Ministry of Finance decree 365 published in the *Diario Oficial*, 4 May 1976, reduces the rate of duty on the following, until 31 December 1976:

82.05.01.00	Parts for mine drilling bits	10% (previously 35%)

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 474/476.

Exchange rates. The Chilean Central Bank announced the following revised exchange rates during April 1976.

14 April 'Bank and 'Brokers' rates raised from Pesos ($) 11.45 to $11.55 per US dollar

23 April Both rates raised from $ 11.55 to $11.80 per US dollar.

Inquiries: CRE 01-215 5289.

CRE Commercial Relations and Exports Divisions
Department of Trade
1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET
Tel. Direct dialling (see end of each notice)

OTAR Overseas Tariffs and Regulations Section,
Export Data Branch
Export Services and Promotions Division
Department of Trade
Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU
Tel. 01-248 5757 (extension at end of each notice)

Security device demonstrated in Los Angeles

Remotely controlled 'Wheelbarrow' manufactured by Morfax Ltd., Mitcham, Surrey, used for investigating and neutralising explosive devices, being demonstrated at the Sheriff's Department in Los Angeles. Seven television stations featured the demonstration in their evening news broadcasts. The 'Wheelbarrow' was also demonstrated in San Francisco and Seattle. Great interest in the device was shown by the Sheriff's Department, the police and security establishments. The 'Wheelbarrow' has been used in Northern Ireland for three and a half years.

Venezuela

Wheat and mixed grain. Venezuelan Government resolution published in the *Official Gazette*, 6 May 1976, eliminates the import licence requirement for goods under tariff no. 10.01.01.99 (wheat or mixed grain: other). Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 474/476.

Cereal flours. Venezuelan decree 1546 of 27 April 1976 removes, until 30 April 1977, the duty on goods under tariff no. 11.01.01.00 (cereal flours of wheat or mixed grain). Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 474/476.

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Statistics

The economy: selected indicators

Series expressed as index numbers and seasonally adjusted except where shown otherwise

	Gross domestic product (average estimate)	Consumers' expenditure	Fixed capital expenditure			Changes in stocks				Balance of payments		
			Total	of which: Manufacturing industry	of which: Distributive and service industries inc. shipping	Total	of which: Manufacturing industry	of which: Wholesalers	of which: Retailers	Current balance	Visible balance	Invisible balance
	at 1970 prices		at 1970 prices			at 1970 prices				at current prices		
Base of index	1970	1970	1970	1970	1970							
£m in base year		31,472	9,380	2,130	2,090							
Series in						£ million				£ million		
1970	100	100	100	100	100	425	325	68	−30	735	−25	760
1971	102	103	102	93	104	70	−148	52	−10	1,058	280	778
1972	104	109	104	82	117	−18	−175	48	−11	131	−702	833
1973	110	114	107	88	125	1064	396	102	334	−842	−2,332	1,490
1974	110	113	105	98	113	597	666	81	−68	−3,650	−5,264	1,614
1975	108	113	104	85	98	−652	−381	−104	6	−1,702	−3,200	1,498
1973 3rd qtr.	110	114	107	92	120	181	46	29	47	−256	−625	369
4th qtr	109	114	107	89	132	205	96	32	51	−373	−950	577
1974 1st qtr	106	112	108	97	112	−176	−31	18	−59	−855	−1,297	442
2nd qtr.	110	112	100	96	110	295	191	43	27	−969	−1,366	397
3rd qtr.	112	113	103	97	119	373	368	3	−14	−861	−1,253	392
4th qtr.	111	114	107	101	113	105	139	17	−22	−965	−1,348	383
1975 1st qtr.	110	115	106	93	101	−176	−4	−31	−57	−435	−850	415
2nd qtr.	107	112	102	86	100	−254	−112	−54	−52	−336	−681	345
3rd qtr.	107	111	107	82	101	−156	−204	−29	60	−625	−986	361
4th qtr.	108	112	101	79	91	−66	−61	10	55	−306	−683	377
1976 1st qtr.										−71	−431	360
% change last 2 qtrs. on prev. 2 qtrs.	−0.8	−1.9	−0.2	−9.9	−4.6							
on a year earlier	−3.6	−2.0	−1.2	−18.9	−17.4							

	Industrial production		Personal expenditure		Prices and costs (NOT seasonally adjusted)					Labour (UK)			Trade	
	Total all industries	Total manufacturing industries	Retail sales	Cars: new registrations	Retail prices	% increase on a year earlier	Wholesale prices: all manufacturing industry: basic materials and fuel used	Wholesale prices: all manufacturing industry: manufactured products: home sales	Basic hourly wage rates of manual workers (all industries and services)	Unemployed excluding school leavers and adult students: mid-month count	Unemployed excluding school leavers and adult students: % of total employees	Unfilled vacancies for adults: mid-month count	Exports	Imports
				monthly averages									On a balance of payments basis	
Base of index	1970	1970	1971		Jan. 1974		1970	1970	July 1972					
£m in base year			15,895											
Series in				thousands						thousands		thousands	£ million at current price	
1971	100.4	99.6	100.0	108.5	153.4†	9.4	104.6	109.0	88.9	775.8	3.4	130.9	8,810	8,530
1972	102.6	102.4	105.8	138.6	164.3†	7.1	109.2	114.8	101.4	855.0	3.7	147.3	9,141	9,843
1973	110.2	110.9	110.7	137.1	179.4†	9.2	144.5	123.2	115.6	611.0	2.6	307.0	11,772	14,104
1974	106.1	107.8	109.9	102 8	108.5	16.0	215.3	152.0	138.7	599.5ø	2.6ø	302.2ø	15,895	21,159
1975	100.9	101.4	107.9	97.2	134.8	24.2	235.4	188.7	179.8	929.0	4.0	148.2ø	18,772	21,972
1974 2nd qtr.	107.6	109.3	107.8	105	107.5	15.8	213.7	148.9	132.3	577.4	2.5	318.4	4,007	5,373
3rd qtr.	107.9	109.6	111.2	107	110.2	17.0	212.9	156.1	144.0	613.7	2.6	308.7	4,222	5,475
4th qtr.	104.7	105.6	111.3	97	115.1	18.2	222.1	164.9	153.5	..	..	..	4,185	5,533
1975 1st qtr.	104.6	106.1	111.3	108	122.0	20.3	220.9	176.0	163.6	737.9	3.2	..	4,532	5,382
2nd qtr.	99.8	100.0	108.9	94	133.6	24.3	225.6	186.3	176.3	847.4	3.6	164.4	4,479	5,160
3rd qtr.	99.5	99.9	105 5	103	139.4	26.6	239.3	193.4	185.5	1,000.0	4.3	133.6	4,635	5,621
4th qtr.	99.8	99.8	105.8	85	144.2	25.3	256.0	199.1	193.8	1,132.1	4.9	113.6	5,126	5,809
1976 1st qtr.	101.1 p	101.7 p	107.3	106	149.4	22.5	266.1 p	206.9 p	205.3 p	1,223.2	5.2	115.5	5,441	5,872
1975 Apr.	101.1	101.4	120.0	95	129.1	21 7	222.9	182.5	170.1	798.3	3.4	180.8	1,379	1,729
May	99.1	99.1	103.7	95	134.5	25.0	226.2	187.3	176.4	850.3	3.6	163.3	1,611	1,693
June	99.1	99.4	104.1	91	137.1	26 1	227.7	189.0	182.6	893.5	3.8	149.0	1,489	1,738
July	100.1	100.6	105.4	91	138.5	26.3	233.2	191.7	184.8	968.2	4.1	133.9	1,567	1,943
Aug.	98.5	98.8	104.8	98	139.3	26.9	241.4	193.5	185.6	997.4	4.3	135.9	1,486	1,886
Sept.	100.0	100.3	106.1	120	140.5	26.6	243.2	194.9	186.0	1,034.4	4.4	131.1	1,582	1,792
Oct.	100.2	100.5	104.8	85	142.5	25.9	252.3	197.0	187.5	1,088.7	4.7	118.9	1,728	1,945
Nov.	100.2	100 5	105.2	81	144.2	25.2	256.7	198.9	195.6	1,133.0	4.9	111.8	1,637	1,918
Dec.	98.8	98.5	107.0	87	146.0	24.9	259.0	201.5	198.2	1,174.6	5.0	110.1	1,761	1,946
1976 Jan.	100.7	102.0	109.8	115	147.9	23.4	261.0	204.8	202.0	1,210.5	5.2	111.1	1,777	1,948
Feb.	101.6	101.8	107.1	101	149.8	22.9	263.5	207.3	206.3	1,232.4	5.3	113.5	1,758	2,002
Mar.	101.0 p	101.3 p	105.5	101	150.6	21.2	273.7 p	208.5 p	207.7	1,226.6	5.3	122.0	1,906	1,922
Apr.			1108 p	111 p	153.5	18.9	284.7 p	211.2 p		1,233.8p	5.3	123.9	1,949 p	2,204 p
% change latest 3 months on prev. 3 months	+1.3	+1.9	−0.5	+10.9	+3.6		+5.8	+3.6	+6.0	+5.0		+7.9	+8½	+5½
on a year earlier	−3.4	−4.1	−5.8	+4.1	+20.9		+23.9	+16.6	+25.5	+60.6		−37.3	+28	+18

p Provisional † Base of index Jan. 1962 = 100 .. not available ø Average of 11 months

Wholesale price indices in April

Output prices

The provisional price index for the home sales of manufactured products rose by 1¼ per cent in April to 211.2 (1970 = 100). The increased duty on alcoholic drinks announced in the Budget was responsible for one-fifth of this increase.

The increase of 1¼ per cent in the provisional price index for manufactured goods other than food, drink and tobacco reflected the normal quarterly pattern of price changes. The latest three months to April show an increase of 3¼ per cent compared with 6 per cent in the same period last year.

Higher prices for a wide range of the products of the public sector steel industry were responsible for an increase of 5¾ per cent in the index for the steel industries in April.

The index for the products of the paper industries rose by 1½ per cent following six months of relatively stable prices. Price rises for paper and board made the most significant contribution.

Higher prices for bread and animal and poultry foods were mainly responsible for the rise of 1 per cent in the provisional price index for the output of the food manufacturing industries. This index has risen by only 2½ per cent in the latest three months.

The indices for made-up clothing and clothing and footwear continued to show small rises, with increases of less than ½ per cent in April. The indices for most other sectors of industry rose by between ¾ per cent and 1¼ per cent.

The change in the index for all manufactured products, measured over a 12-month period, fell once again. The figure of 15¾ per cent for April compares with 16¼ per cent for March and 24¾ per cent in the 12-month period to April 1975.

Input prices

The provisional index for materials and fuel purchased by manufacturing industry rose by 4 per cent to 284.7.

The rise of 4¾ per cent in the index for materials purchased by manufacturing industry other than the food, drink and tobacco industries followed a similar rise in March. The latest increase was again due to higher prices for a wide range of imported commodities and semi-manufactures reflecting the continued depreciation of the pound against major foreign currencies in April.

The sharp increase of 6¾ per cent in the index for coal, gas and electricity in April was caused by higher prices for electricity. This also made a significant contribution to many of the increases in the indices for materials and fuel purchased by individual sectors of industry in April.

The largest rises, of 8 per cent, were in the indices for the non-ferrous metals industry and the steel industries. Continued large price increases for copper and steel scrap respectively again made the largest contributions.

Price rises for home produced and imported steel, iron castings and other metals were largely responsible for rises of 4½ per cent and 3½ per cent in the indices for the electrical engineering and mechanical engineering industries.

The index for materials and fuel purchased by the clothing and footwear industries again showed the smallest increase of only 1 per cent.

Most of the indices for other sectors of industry rose by between 2 and 3 per cent in April. These increases mainly reflected the effect of the depreciation of the pound on the prices of imported commodities.

The increase of 1 per cent in the index for materials purchased by the food manufacturing industries reflected higher prices for home-produced materials, particularly potatoes, fish and cereals. Lower prices for imported sugar were partly offset by price increases for coffee and other imported materials. Price rises for electricity, motor spirit and derv were responsible for an increase of 5¼ per cent in the index for fuel purchased by the food manufacturing industries.

Note

The full effect of the Budget increases for alcoholic drinks and tobacco will be reflected in the index for May. The whole of the increases last year took effect in May.

Further information

Correspondence about wholesale price index numbers should be addressed to Statistics Division 4, Room 610, Sanctuary Buildings, Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3DB. Telephone inquiries for price index numbers should be made to 01-215 3544 (Tables 1 and 2 indices), 3549 (engineering), 5216 (chemicals, steel, building materials, etc.), 3548 (textiles, clothing, timber, paper, etc.), 3173 (imported commodities).

Notes on wholesale price indices

1 Detailed notes on index numbers of wholesale prices were last shown in *Trade and Industry* of 9 April 1976.

2 The index numbers are constructed on a net sector basis. This is to say, the price movements used to compile the index for a particular sector of industry are only those relating to transactions between the sector and other sectors. Transactions between undertakings in the same sector are excluded. Thus index numbers for the whole of manufacturing industry are not weighted averages of sector index numbers.

3 All the index numbers are compiled exclusive of value added tax and (before its abolition) of purchase tax. Revenue duties (on cigarettes and manufactured tobacco, alcoholic liquor, matches and mechanical lighters) are included. The duty on hydrocarbon oils is excluded from output price series that cover these products (unless specifically noted to the contrary) but is included in series for materials and fuel purchased by sectors of industry.

4 Firm indices, at all levels of aggregation, include imputation for items for which there is no current price information. Provisional indices at high levels of aggregation, Table 1 and Table 2, also include imputation for items for which there is no current price information. Additional provisional figures will be published for those indices where there are insufficient returns to allow accurate imputation.

5 Revisions to firm index numbers will only be published if the revised indices are significantly different. These revisions will only be notified in the full version of the wholesale price index articles; ie those published in April, August and December of each year.

TABLE 1 Price index numbers of materials purchased

1970 = 100

1968 SIC		1975				1976	1975					1976			
		1st qtr.	2nd qtr.	3rd qtr.	4th qtr.	1st qtr. p	Apr.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar. p	Apr. p
Orders III to XIX	Materials and fuel purchased by manufacturing industry:	220.9	225.6	239.3	256.0	266.1	222.9	243.2	252.2	256.7	259.0	261.0	263.5	273.7	284.7
	Materials†	225.9	228.7	243.4	261.2	271.9	226.8	247.7	257.2	262.0	264.5	266.6	269.4	279.8	290.4
	Coal (except for carbonising), gas and electricity	173.3	195.8	200.5	205.2	210.1	185.7	200.3	204.4	205.3	205.8	206.9	207.5	215.8	230.4
Orders IV to XIX	Materials and fuel purchased by manufacturing industry, other than food, drink and tobacco manufacturing industries	237.3	244.3	255.4	269.7	280.2	239.9	257.1	267.6	269.4	272.2	273.8	276.8	290.0	304.5
	Materials†	246.5	251.3	263.3	278.9	290.2	247.6	265.2	276.6	278.5	281.7	283.3	286.7	300.6	315.1
Order III	Materials and fuel purchased by the food, drink and tobacco manufacturing industries	187.4	191.5	206.2	224.1	234.3	190.5	212.5	217.5	225.0	229.7	232.2	233.4	237.3	242.6
	Materials and fuels purchased by selected broad sectors of industry														
211 to 229	Food manufacturing industries	186.7	187.7	205.2	226.6	235.9	189.0	213.6	219.1	229.5	231.1	234.0	235.2	238.6	241.3
	Materials†	186.3	186.9	204.9	226.9	236.1	188.4	213.7	219.3	230.2	231.2	234.2	235.5	238.7	241.1
	Fuel	195.9	208.6	210.9	217.8	230.9	203.2	210.8	212.8	213.2	227.5	228.9	229.3	234.4	246.6
211 to 229 (excluding MLH 219)	Food manufacturing industries (excluding animal and poultry foods)	184.1	186.5	202.8	225.4	235.3	187.8	210.7	216.5	229.0	230.6	233.5	234.8	237.5	239.5
Order V	Chemicals and allied industries	230.9	233.5	241.0	250.8	258.7	231.9	243.2	248.5	249.3	254.7	255.5	257.1	263.4	271.1
311 and 312	Steel industries	210.7	225.9	230.6	237.2	246.6	223.8	231.4	234.8	236.8	240.0	241.2	243.9	254.6	274.8
321 to 323	Non-ferrous metals industry	141.8	141.3	145.9	149.1	157.3	143.0	146.8	148.2	148.8	150.2	152.3	154.7	164.8	178.0
Order VII (excluding MLH 342)	Mechanical engineering industries	197.6	206.1	211.4	217.2	226.3	204.1	212.2	214.5	217.5	219.5	223.2	226.3	229.5	237.6
Order IX	Electrical engineering industries	171.0	176.5	182.6	187.0	196.3	175.8	183.9	185.3	187.1	188.5	192.5	195.3	201.2	210.5
Order X	Shipbuilding and marine engineering industries	196.5	205.6	209.7	213.8	222.3	204.1	210.7	212.1	213.7	215.6	218.8	222.5	225.6	234.3
Order XII	Metal goods industries	217.6	220.7	224.6	227.3	234.4	219.7	223.3	224.8	227.9	229.1	229.9	233.6	239.8	249.8
Order XIII	Textile industries	189.4	198.6	204.0	214.9	232.4	193.9	205.7	210.1	213.7	221.0	227.8	231.0	238.5	245.4
Order XV	Clothing and footwear industries	176.1	179.4	184.7	189.4	197.3	177.7	186.2	187.7	189.5	190.9	194.4	197.7	199.9	202.1
461, 464 and 469	Bricks, cement, etc., industries	204.8	217.7	225.1	231.7	245.1	215.6	226.3	228.4	230.1	236.5	240.7	244.4	250.2	254.3
462 and 463	Pottery and glass industries	194.6	207.6	216.0	226.3	237.8	203.9	218.1	222.6	224.6	231.7	235.1	237.7	240.7	245.3
Order XVII	Timber industries	217.4	217.2	217.0	220.2	235.1	217.6	217.4	218.9	219.4	222.4	229.0	235.1	241.3	246.7
481 to 484	Paper industries	231.8	240.1	243.5	248.9	253.5	236.6	243.7	246.7	248.3	251.6	250.7	251.4	258.3	263.2
Order XX	Construction materials	194.7	203.4	209.5	215.4	227.2	201.8	211.6	213.1	215.4	217.6	222.9	227.8	231.0	235.4
Part of Order XX	House building materials	196.5	205.0	211.2	217.2	229.3	203.7	213.8	215.3	217.2	219.0	224.8	229.7	233.3	237.0

† Includes crude oil and coal for carbonising.

TABLE 1(a) Price index numbers of materials and fuel purchased by selected sectors of industry

1970 = 100

1968 SIC		1975				1976	1975					1976			
		1st qtr.	2nd qtr.	3rd qtr.	4th qtr.	1st qtr. p	Apr.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar. p	Apr. p
361	Electrical machinery industry	184.4	191.6	196.7	201.5	211.3	190.3	197.9	199.6	201.6	203.2	207.9	210.8	215.3	223.4
362	Insulated wires and cables industry	131.6	134.5	139.9	143.4	152.1	135.6	142.6	142.7	143.6	143.7	147.5	150.0	158.7	169.5
364	Radio and electronic components industry	184.3	190.8	196.3	201.8	209.6	190.8	197.6	200.0	201.8	203.7	206.7	209.8	212.4	218.0
368	Domestic appliances industry	182.4	188.1	191.2	195.8	205.3	188.8	192.5	194.2	195.8	197.4	201.8	205.1	208.9	215.7
369	Electrical goods industries n.e.s.	180.6	183.7	187.7	192.6	200.7	185.9	189.1	191.2	192.8	193.9	197.1	200.3	204.7	212.6
381	Motor vehicle industry	198.2	207.0	212.3	219.1	229.0	205.1	214.2	217.0	219.1	221.3	225.6	229.2	232.2	238.7
411	Man-made fibres industry	197.3	207.7	212.1	221.7	230.9	204.8	212.7	220.0	221.4	223.7	226.1	231.0	235.7	241.9
414	Woollen and worsted industry	187.3	200.7	207.9	230.8	255.2	193.8	210.6	219.7	230.4	242.4	249.9	251.2	264.4	273.7
422/1	Household textiles and handkerchiefs industry	189.1	190.9	194.1	198.6	210.1	189.1	195.4	195.4	198.6	202.0	207.8	210.1	212.5	213.2
450	Footwear industry	174.3	177.3	184.0	189.1	198.2	176.5	185.9	187.1	189.1	191.3	194.6	199.4	200.6	203.1
481	Paper and board making industry	236.5	246.2	251.3	258.2	262.8	242.2	251.8	255.9	257.3	261.3	259.6	260.2	268.6	273.5

CHART 1 (LOG SCALE)

MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY
(other than food, drink & tobacco)
the latest two months are provisional

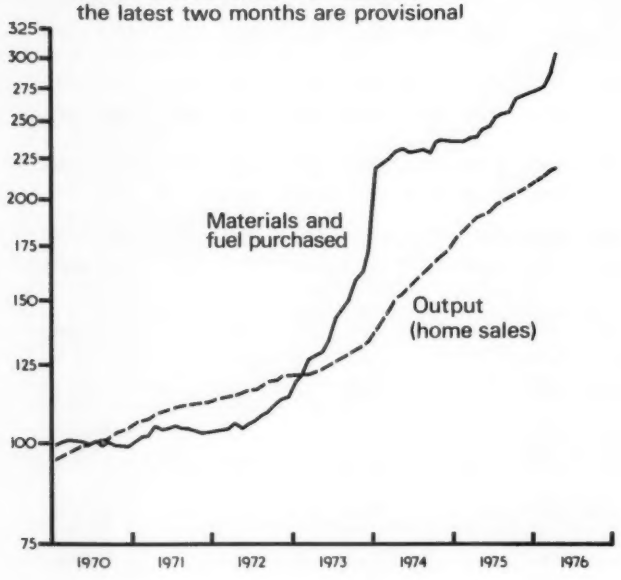

CHART 2 (LOG SCALE)

FOOD MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY
the latest two months are provisional

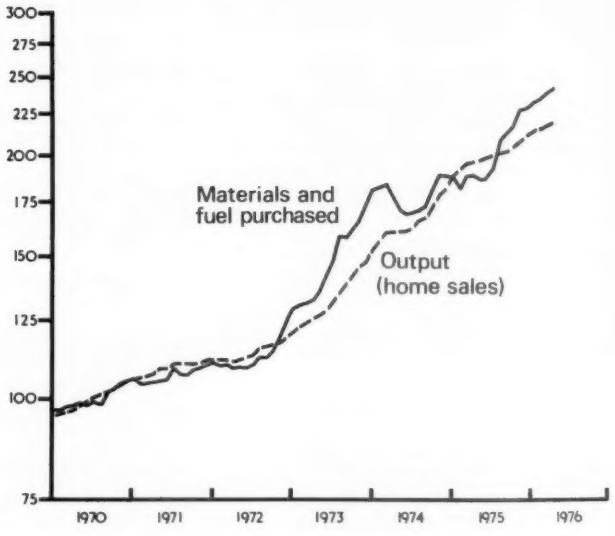

TABLE 2 Price index numbers of output (home sales)

1970 = 100

1968 SIC		1975				1976	1975					1976			
		1st qtr.	2nd qtr.	3rd qtr.	4th qtr.	1st qtr. p	Apr.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar. p	Apr. p
Order III to XIX	Output of manufactured products	176.0	186.3	193.4	199.1	206.9	182.5	194.9	197.0	198.9	201.5	204.8	207.3	208.5	211.2
Orders IV to XIX	Products of manufacturing industry other than food, drink and tobacco manufacturing industries	182.8	192.1	199.1	205.4	214.4	190.4	201.0	203.4	205.1	207.8	211.9	215.0	216.4	219.0
	Output of selected broad sectors of industry														
211 to 229	Food manufacturing industries	192.5	197.4	201.3	208.0	215.2	195.7	202.1	204.3	208.1	211.6	213.6	215.3	216.6	218.7
211 to 229 (excluding MLH 219)	Food manufacturing industries (excluding animal and poultry foods)	190.7	198.7	203.0	208.2	215.5	196.5	203.5	204.5	208.3	211.8	214.0	215.6	217.0	218.7
Order V	Chemicals and allied industries	177.4	186.2	192.8	198.2	206.6	184.8	194.9	196.8	198.1	199.7	203.8	207.3	208.6	210.6
Order VI	Metal manufacturing	195.5	202.2	206.0	209.5	217.6	201.9	206.9	207.6	209.9	210.9	214.2	217.8	220.8	231.2
311 and 312	Steel industries	220.3	227.6	227.8	231.0	237.2	227.5	228.2	229.2	231.5	232.2	234.4	238.2	238.8	252.6
Order VII to XII	Engineering and allied industries	177.2	187.6	195.3	201.8	209.9	185.7	197.0	200.3	202.0	203.0	207.0	210.6	212.0	214.7
Order VII (excluding MLH 342)	Mechanical engineering	182.3	193.0	202.1	209.3	218.6	191.1	204.5	207.4	209.6	210.8	216.0	219.2	220.6	223.8
Order VIII	Instrument engineering	152.1	162.8	171.2	176.3	185.0	160.2	172.5	174.8	176.5	177.6	183.6	184.2	187.2	191.4
Order IX	Electrical engineering	161.2	170.9	177.2	183.6	191.6	168.1	180.5	182.2	183.8	184.9	188.7	192.0	194.2	196.0
Order XI	Vehicles	192.1	204.6	212.9	219.9	227.7	203.2	213.6	218.8	220.3	220.6	223.5	229.5	230.0	231.0
Order XII	Metal goods industries n.e.s.	185.2	193.8	200.3	207.8	215.7	192.6	201.7	205.5	208.2	209.6	213.4	215.3	218.4	224.6
Order XIII	Textile industries	172.9	175.7	180.7	185.1	193.0	174.3	182.1	183.8	185.0	186.6	190.5	193.4	195.2	197.8
Order XV	Clothing and footwear	156.8	160.9	166.0	170.7	176.6	159.1	168.1	169.2	171.2	171.7	175.4	176.0	178.3	179.0
441/449	Made-up clothing	153.0	156.9	162.4	167.1	172.6	154.9	164.7	166.0	167.5	167.7	171.3	172.1	174.4	174.8
461, 464 and 469	Bricks, cement, etc., industries	183.9	198.3	209.3	218.8	231.6	193.8	212.3	216.0	219.3	221.1	227.0	232.7	235.0	236.6
462 and 463	Pottery and glass industries	176.8	191.0	202.3	210.2	215.4	183.6	204.3	207.8	211.2	211.6	213.0	215.9	217.2	221.4
Order XVII	Timber industries	194.8	201.7	207.9	210.9	218.7	200.8	209.9	210.4	210.7	211.7	216.1	218.9	221.0	222.6
481 to 484	Paper industries	209.4	218.6	227.2	233.8	235.4	216.9	231.3	232.9	233.9	234.7	234.9	235.3	235.9	239.4
Order XX	New construction‡	210	220	228	237 p			228			237 p				

‡ Index of building costs relate to average for the quarter (*Department of Environment*)

TABLE 3(a) Commodities produced in the United Kingdom (as published monthly)

1970 = 100

1968 SIC		1975	1976			
		Apr.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar. p	Apr. p
101	Coal	299.6	307.4	307.3	344.5	350.2
102/1	Coated limestone roadstone	231.3	290.5	293.1	295.1	295.8
	Aggregates for concrete	170.4	198.0	201.2	201.2	202.2
103	Sand and gravel – ex pit or works	177.2	205.9	208.2	208.2	209.0
240	Tobacco	122.4	155.9	156.0	156.0	156.0
262	Motor spirit, Two star (including duty)⌀	172.4	183.5	183.5	183.5	200.8
	Medium fuel oil (950 secs – including duty)⌀	294.0	346.4	346.4	346.4	346.4
	Derv fuel (including duty)⌀	149.9	167.9	167.9	167.9	185.3
263	Lubricating oils and greases	208.3	237.6	238.8	233.5	233.5
271	General chemicals	198.0	220.4	225.3	226.9	229.5
271/1	Inorganic chemicals	191.4	221.8	224.1	225.6	228.5
271/2	Organic chemicals	218.4	239.8	250.2	252.3	255.2
272/1	Pharmaceutical chemicals	176.6	185.6	189.1	187.6	194.8
272/2	Pharmaceutical preparations	152.8	177.2	180.3	181.5	183.7
273	Toilet preparations	157.7	180.9	181.7	184.0	185.0
274	Paint	199.6	218.5	220.6	221.4	221.4
276/1	Synthetic resins and plastics materials	179.0	189.6	195.7	197.1	197.8
	Polyolefin moulding materials	177.0	197.6	220.0	211.1	211.1
279/3	Explosives, fireworks, etc.	185.2	239.5	241.1	241.1	241.1
311/2	Uncoated steel sheets (other than stainless and electrical sheets)	220.6	202.1	202.1	202.1	242.4
	Tinplate	216.9	217.6	233.4	238.5	241.4
	Finished steel (other than sheets, tinplates, forgings and castings)	231.4	240.1	244.3	244.5	255.0
	Steel plates (non-alloy)	253.1	254.3	254.3	254.3	262.0
	Steel sheet piling	240.6	241.8	265.8	265.8	266.2
	Heavy steel bars and sections	237.5	242.1	264.3	264.3	264.5
	Light re-rolled bars and sections	229.7	236.4	238.6	238.6	259.0
	Finished stainless steels	183.9	184.8	186.4	186.4	199.8
	Steel castings	204.7	229.4	229.6	229.6	229.6
	Forgings (other than drop forgings)	248.1	287.7	292.8	293.6	297.8
312	Steel tubes – other than electric conduit tubes	249.3	259.9	261.4	261.4	276.2
313/3 and 313/4	Iron castings	224.6	253.7	256.6	258.8	262.7
313/4	Cast and spun iron pipes and fittings	237.8	271.9	282.4	286.0	286.0
321	Wrought aluminium	165.7	190.7	195.7	198.2	203.2
	Aluminium: Rolled	157.4	180.8	187.0	187.0	191.8
	Extruded and drawn aluminium products – other than wire	156.4	188.1	194.6	194.6	199.6
	Aluminium: Castings	186.9	205.0	209.2	216.8	224.4
	Aluminium: Forgings	160.5	179.8	185.0	190.6	190.6
322	Brass ingots	119.1	121.9	123.6	138.6	164.9
331	Agricultural machinery	193.0	221.1	221.3	222.9	225.3
332	Metal-working machine tools	207.4	235.9	236.0 p	237.3	240.5
333	Pumps, valves, compressors, fluid power equipment	190.4	215.6	218.4	220.6	223.0
336	Construction and earth-moving equipment	181.8	213.7	220.8 p	222.1	223.6
368	Domestic electrical appliances	154.0	170.6	174.0	174.5	175.4
381/1	Passenger cars‡	181.2	197.5	203.1	203.1	203.8
381/2	Commercial and public service vehicles	212.3	235.0	242.1	242.2	242.6
	Commercial vehicles not exceeding 1½ tons gross vehicle weight	211.5	238.2	244.5	244.5	245.6
	Commercial vehicles and chassis over 1½ tons gross vehicle weight	212.3	233.7	241.1	241.3	241.5
	Public service vehicles	214.7	237.1	243.4	243.4	243.4
390	Engineers' cutting tools and parts: non-diamond	158.5	185.9	187.5	187.5	191.4
	Hacksaw blades	157.1	172.0	172.0	185.9	188.8
	Engineers' cutting tools: diamond	148.3	159.5	159.5	162.7	162.7
	Engineers' cutting tools	157.7	183.4	184.8	185.8	189.4
391	Hand tools and implements	197.2	220.5	221.4	226.5	230.2
392	Cutlery and tableware	186.8	203.5	206.3	209.0	216.9
399/1	Metal furniture, office and works equipment	181.4	193.0	197.1	197.2	198.7
399/12	Plumbers brassware	157.2	173.3	179.7	181.9	185.1
411	Man-made fibres production	152.1	166.5	166.7	167.4	167.6
412, 414/5 and 415	All spun man-made fibres yarns	165.8	179.6	182.2	183.9	184.9
412	Cotton yarns, cotton-spun man-made fibres yarn and mixtures of both	178.5	205.4	210.5	215.2	215.5
413	Woven cotton cloth in the loomstate	188.2	201.7	204.9	208.2	208.3
	Man-made fibres fabrics in the loomstate	189.3	207.0	207.0	207.5	207.4
414/2	Yarns of wool spun on the worsted system	185.3	206.1	209.9	215.7	221.7
417	Hosiery and other knitted goods	151.0	159.6	162.6	163.8	165.2
419	Carpets and rugs	170.4	197.7	201.1	201.7	201.8
429/1	Asbestos manufactures	164.0	188.8	193.0	193.0	197.4
431/1	Leather for footwear	155.5	174.3	183.1	183.1	183.1
450	Footwear – including rubber footwear	170.3	185.2	185.4	187.6	188.2
461/1	Refractory goods including bricks	203.2	227.3	234.7	237.8	237.8
461/2	Non-refractory goods, including building bricks	201.9	229.8	233.7	240.4	241.7
	Engineering bricks – *delivered*	231.7	277.9	280.2	280.2	280.2
463/1	Flat glass (including safety and silvered glass)	169.4	215.4	218.7	218.6	218.6
	Glazing sheet and plate glass	146.0	188.2	197.8	197.8	197.8
463/2	Glass containers	191.3	219.6	219.7	220.0	224.8
464	Cement – *delivered in bulk*	202.4	231.5	243.4	243.4	243.4
469/2	Precast concrete products	183.9	217.4	223.9	225.8	226.8
	Precast concrete pipes – *delivered*	188.8	244.8	258.7	263.9	263.9
	Precast concrete manholes – *delivered*	172.7	196.0	207.6	212.8	212.8
	Plaster – gypsum	195.8	210.5	212.0	212.1	212.1
471/1	Homegrown hardwood – sawn	221.1	227.6	230.5	230.1	231.5
471/2	Building joinery	225.3	239.7	240.8	246.8	250.0
472	Domestic furniture	178.9	198.5	210.4	202.0	203.1
473	Bedding, etc.	194.2	215.2	223.0	223.0	225.1

TABLE 3(a) *(continued)*

1968 SIC		1975 Apr.	1976 Jan.	Feb.	Mar. p	Apr. p
481	Paper and board	216.1	226.5	226.4	226.7	233.3
	Printings and writings – excluding newsprint	211.7	217.0	217.0	217.3	227.6
482/1	Cardboard boxes, cartons and fibreboard packing cases	212.2	236.9	237.2	237.5	238.3
483	Manufactured stationery	210.8	234.8	236.3	236.8	237.6
484/1	Wallpaper	214.1	225.1	225.1	225.1	225.1
489	General printing, bookbinding, etc.	177.7	200.2	200.9	202.2	203.3
491/1	Rubber tyres and tubes	176.5	185.8	190.5	191.3	191.5
492	Linoleum and felt base	176.8	194.4	202.2	202.2	202.4
Part 399/472	Office furniture	207.2	222.2	225.1	226.8	228.2
Part 338/399/472	Office equipment and machinery	172.0	181.2	183.4	185.0	187.0

ø Index based on scheduled outer zone prices for minimum bulk loads of 500 gallons (motor spirit 1,000 gallons) exclusive of rebates. p = provisional.
‡ Inclusive of purchase tax (before its abolition), VAT and Car Tax.

TABLE 3(b) Commodities wholly or mainly imported into the United Kingdom

	1975 Apr.	1976 Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr. p
Hides and skins	150.0	226.4	246.0	283.0	309.6
Non-ferrous metals:					
Aluminium, virgin ingot delivered	148.0	164.1	164.1	164.1	173.0
Copper‡	95.0	99.4	101.9	116.2	138.6
Lead‡	159.5	130.6	135.7	155.5	194.2
Nickel refined delivered§	156.2	199.2	202.0	201.4	201.6
Tin, ingot min. 99.75%‡	196.4	200.3	209.2	232.6	251.4
Zinc‡	267.7	276.3	276.2	304.9	346.9
Zinc§	281.4	307.1	307.1	319.4	336.4
Natural rubber	142.5	198.4	211.1	228.0	239.8
Sulphur, crude cif (for acid making)	262.0	297.1	297.1	297.1	297.1
Textiles:					
Raw cotton, all types	180.2	259.1	261.2	273.4	291.5
American types, cif Liverpool	182.8	267.8	270.2	283.0	299.1
Egyptian types, cif Liverpool	167.2	215.9	216.3	225.5	253.7
Raw wool – all types	196.7	242.7	246.9	263.0	275.9
Imported	202.1	243.7	245.6	262.0	272.8
Imported, merino	206.9	230.7	230.4	243.4	244.6
Imported, fine crossbred	196.6	241.4	248.3	258.1	278.5
Imported, medium and coarse crossbred	216.8	295.5	297.7	328.2	351.1
British types	166.2	236.9	254.2	268.5	293.4
Timber:					
Imported hardwood (ex-yard or wharf)	221.1	245.8	254.4	261.8	266.0
Imported plywood (delivered to consumers)	226.4	223.2	234.0	241.2	247.3
Imported softwood (delivered to consumers)	243.7	246.2	253.8	264.7	271.8
Woodpulp, imported	277.0	295.1	295.1	306.9	323.2

‡ LME settlement price. § Producer's price. p = provisional.

TABLE 5 United Nations index numbers of world export prices(1)

1963 = 100

	Primary commodities: Total $	£	Purchasers' currencies	Agricultural non-food $	£	Purchasers' currencies	Non-ferrous metals $	£	Purchasers' currencies	Primary commodities and non-ferrous metals (2) $	£	Purchasers' currencies
1973 1st quarter	156	181	144	153	177	141	174	201	161	157	182	145
2nd quarter	175	194	155	171	189	151	206	228	182	177	196	156
3rd quarter	199	225	169	203	229	172	242	273	205	202	228	171
4th quarter	221	260	197	208	245	185	267	314	238	225	265	200
1974 1st quarter	289	354	267	226	278	209	299	367	277	290	356	269
2nd quarter	292	341	260	225	263	200	342	399	304	296	346	263
3rd quarter	295	351	268	218	260	198	258	308	235	292	348	265
4th quarter	303	364	273	206	248	185	225	270	202	297	357	267
1975 1st quarter	294	343	253	199	233	170	220	258	190	288	337	248
2nd quarter	287	346	247	198	239	171	213	257	184	281	339	242
3rd quarter	297	391	270	205	270	187	218	287	198	291	383	265
4th quarter(3)	*309*	*423*	*286*	*203*	*278*	*188*	*212*	*291*	*197*	*301*	*413*	*279*
1976 1st quarter(3)	*320*	*448*	*300*	*217*	*303*	*203*	*222*	*311*	*208*	*312*	*437*	*293*
April(3)	*322*	*488*	*307*	*218*	*330*	*208*	*244*	*371*	*234*	*315*	*478*	*302*

(1) Published by the UN in terms of US dollars. For convenience the index numbers are also shown in sterling and in terms of purchasers' currencies by converting the dollar index at prevailing exchange rates. (2) This combined index is not published as such by the UN. (3) Projections by Department of Industry.

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Retailers' stocks in March

Based on the non-seasonally adjusted data of Table 1, the level of stocks at book value in March was 18 per cent higher than a year earlier; at constant prices it was 2 per cent higher.

The estimates of value of physical increase of retailers' stocks at 1970 prices and seasonally adjusted (Table 2) show an increase in stock levels in March, following falls in each of the previous three months. These falls coincided with an increased volume of retail sales; trade in March, however, declined.

Notes

1 The book value of retailers' stocks in the United Kingdom at end of December 1971 was £1,860 million.

2 With the introduction of VAT, the book values are being valued exclusive of this tax. There is, therefore, a discontinuity in the series in 1973 between March and April. For the year up to March, the usual comparisons with a year earlier for the book value series have not been given. As the basis of valuation is now comparable with that of a year earlier these percentages changes have been re-introduced. The estimates at constant prices take account of this method of valuation, and are on a consistent basis throughout.

3 For the estimates at constant prices, it should be borne in mind that, when price increases are large, the various problems associated with revaluation of the value series to constant prices become more acute. Thus, the relative accuracy with which constant price changes have been measured is likely to have been reduced in recent periods.

4 The statistics given in Table 2 were introduced in an article in the issue of 28 March 1975.

5 Long-run series back to 1966 for both Table 1 and Table 2 were included in the article in the issue of 26 September 1975.

TABLE 1 Level of retailers' stocks

Index numbers (end 1971 = 100) *and percentage increase on a year earlier* (At cost at end of month)

	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
At book values:												
1971	89	91	94	95	95	97	95	95	98	106	110	100
1972	96	98	101	102	102	104	101	102	104	113	119	106
1973	103	106	111	111	111	115	115	116	121	131	140	129
1974	126	127	133	137	142	143	143	142	148	161	171	154
1975	148	151	159	155	160	163	162	163	173	191	205	185
1976	175	177	188									
1972	7	8	8	6	7	8	7	7	7	7	8	6
1973	7	8	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1974	—	—	—	24	28	24	24	22	23	22	22	20
1975	18	19	20	13	13	14	14	14	17	19	20	20
1976	18	17	18									
At constant (1970) prices:												
1971	95	97	99	99	98	99	96	96	99	107	111	100
1972	95	97	99	100	100	102	98	98	100	107	112	99
1973	96	99	103	108	111	114	112	112	116	124	131	120
1974	113	112	116	117	118	118	116	114	116	124	129	115
1975	108	109	112	107	109	109	108	107	112	122	130	116
1976	109	109	115									
1972	—	—	—	1	2	2	2	2	1	—	1	−1
1973	1	2	4	9	11	13	15	14	17	16	17	20
1974	18	14	13	8	6	3	3	1	—	—	−1	−3
1975	−5	−3	−4	−8	−8	−7	−7	−6	−4	−1	—	—
1976	—	1	2									

TABLE 2 Value of physical increase of retailers' stocks at 1970 prices

Seasonally adjusted £ million

	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
1971	−14	−1	−17	2	−18	16	−8	4	12	18	−8	4
1972	−9	3	−12	9	4	20	−16	12	−12	8	8	−26
1973	26	16	9	88	55	42	18	8	21	5	23	23
1974	−7	−54	2	14	25	−12	18	−29	−3	−5	1	−18
1975	−27	−24	−6	−83	35	−4	19	—	41	34	36	−15
1976	−26	−18	27									

See note 2.

"Guide for drawing up an INTERNATIONAL CONSORTIUM AGREEMENT"

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Copies of the Guide are obtainable on application to the Secretary of the

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Price £5.00 including postage.

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Retail sales: provisional estimates for April

Volume

The provisional estimate of the seasonally adjusted index of the volume of retail sales in April is 108 (1971 = 100). This estimate is subject to greater uncertainty than usual because it is made by comparison with the corresponding month a year ago, which was itself exceptional (See note below).

The provisional estimate suggests an increase in trade in April of 2-3 per cent, which may reflect, in part, the effects of the April Budget measures, particularly the reduction in the higher rate of VAT which became effective from 12 April.

In the latest three months, February to April, the volume of sales was virtually the same as in the previous three months, when trade was increased by comparatively buoyant 'sales' and the easing of certain restrictions on credit in the middle of December.

Value

Based on non-seasonally adjusted data, the provisional estimate of the value of total retail sales in April was 6 per cent higher than in April 1975. This increase is relatively small because of the high level of trade in April 1975 (see Notes below). In the first four months of 1976, the average value of sales was 12 per cent higher than in the corresponding period of 1975.

Retail sales: Volume Seasonally adjusted index (1971 = 100)		Retail sales: Value Not seasonally adjusted – percentage change compared with a year earlier	
1975 1st quarter	111.3	1975 1st quarter	+22
2nd quarter	108.9	2nd quarter	+24
3rd quarter	105.5	3rd quarter	+18
4th quarter	105.8	4th quarter	+15
1976 1st quarter	107.3	1976 1st quarter	+15
1975 January	112.8	1975 January	+22
February	111.6	February	+22
March	109.5	March	+21
April	120.0	April	+33
1976 January	109.8	1976 January	+16
February	107.1	February	+14
March	105.5	March	+13
April	108 (prov.)	April	+6 (prov.)

Notes

The volume index is given to the nearest ½ per cent. The percentage increase in value compared with a year earlier is given to the nearest whole number.

A detailed note on the method of computation of the provisional estimate was published in *Trade and Industry* on 21 February 1974.

When using the volume figures, it should be borne in mind that, when price increases are large, the various problems associated with revaluation of the value series to constant prices become more acute. Thus, the relative accuracy with which volume changes have been measured is likely to have been reduced in recent periods.

The seasonally adjusted series include, where appropriate, adjustments to make allowance for the inclusion of an extra week in the January 1975 trading period. No adjustments are made to the non-seasonally adjusted data.

The basis of the computation of the provisional estimate is the comparison of the value of trade for the current month with the same month a year earlier. In April 1975 sales by certain parts of the retail trade were exceptionally high and variable. This is reflected in the greater variability of the percentage change of a year earlier for April 1976 which makes the provisional estimate based on the returns so far available more uncertain than usual.

The provisional figures are made available by press notice in advance of this article. The final figures for April will be published in a press notice on Tuesday, 8 June 1976.

Symbols used in all statistical tables

.. not available	r revised
— nil or less than half	* five week period
the final digit shown	• fifty-three week
p provisional	period

Hosiery and other knitted goods: index of production

In the three months ended March 1976 the volume of production of hosiery and other knitted goods, seasonally adjusted (including knitted fabrics), was provisionally estimated to have been 6 per cent less than in the three months ended March 1975.

The seasonally adjusted figures for 1975 are based on the seasonal pattern up to the end of 1974 and may be subject to slight revision when the complete figures for 1975 have been incorporated. The actual figures allow for differences in the length of calendar months, but not for other seasonal variations.

In using the index numbers shown in the table, it should be borne in mind that, when price increases are large, the various problems associated with constructing a constant value series become more acute. Because of these difficulties the relative accuracy of the estimates is likely to have been reduced in recent months.

Hosiery and other knitted goods

1970 = 100

1968	88
1969	98
1970	100
1971	99
1972	100
1973	103
1974	100
1975 p	97

Including warp knitting

	Actual	Seasonally adjusted
1974 1st quarter	91	97
2nd quarter	103	105
3rd quarter	97	101
4th quarter	108	96
..		
1975 1st quarter	87	93
2nd quarter	95	96
3rd quarter	94	97
4th quarter p	111	99
1976 1st quarter p	81	87
1975 January	78	92
February	93	98
March	90	89
April	89	95
May	92	93
June	104	100
July	84	95
August	87	98
September	109	98
October p	123	103
November p	126	105
December p	85	89
1976 January p	77	92
February p	85	90
March p	81	81

p = provisional.

New companies registered

Below are details of new companies registered in Great Britain during March 1976 showing nominal capital. The figures are exclusive of unlimited companies and companies limited by guarantee.

Nominal capital	Total	Public companies	Private companies
Not exceeding £100	4,491	—	4,491
Over £100 but under £1,000	74	..	74
£1,000 but under £10,000	1,030	—	1,030
£10,000 but under £50,000	452	—	452
£50,000 but under £100,000	67	—	67
£100,000 but under £1,000,000	68	—	68
£1,000,000 and over	8	—	8
Total number	6,190	—	6,190
	£ thous.	£ thous.	£ thous.
Total amount of nominal capital	41,680	—	41,680

Companies registered in Great Britain in 1975 and 1976

	1975		1976	
	Number	Nominal capital £ thous.	Number	Nominal capital £ thous.
January	3,648	18,631	3,476	21,780
February	3,442	22,886	4,088	19,228
March	3,478	22,419	6,190	41,680
April	4,944	24,352		
May	4,245	42,314		
June	3,465	20,856		
July	3,752	26,703		
August	3,267	47,668		
September	3,781	32,241		
October	3,879	25,224		
November	3,739	35,028		
December	3,450	27,881		
Total	45,090	346,203		

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New companies in Northern Ireland

During April, 40 private companies and one public company with a total nominal capital of £2,002, 550 were incorporated in Northern Ireland. Two public companies without a share capital were incorporated in the same month.

During the period January-April, 191 companies with a total nominal capital of £5,674,800 were incorporated, compared with 158 companies with a total nominal capital of £4,647,296 incorporated in the same period in 1975.

Cinema admissions and takings in January and February

During January, counted as a four-week period, the weekly average of admissions to cinemas in Great Britain was 2.65 million and the weekly average of gross box office takings was £1.89 million. The comparable figures for January 1975 were 3.02 million and £1.65 million.

During February, counted as a four week period, the weekly average of admissions to cinemas in Great Britain was 2.16 million and the weekly average of gross box office takings was £1.60 million. The comparable figures for February 1975 were 2.87 million and £1.61 million.

Registrations of British, community and foreign films

The following are details of films registered by the Department of Trade under the Films Acts 1960 to 1970, as amended by the European Communities Act 1972, during the week ended Friday, 14 May 1976.
BR/E indicates that the film is a British quota film, EC that the film is a quota film. The date which forms part of the registration number of each is the date on which quota life of the film expires.

Title of film	Registered no.	Playing time minutes	Date of registration	Registered in the name of	Maker's name
			BRITISH		
Marine Merchants	BR/E 38594/16/5/81	26	11 May	Cinema International Corporation (UK)	Harold Baim Presentations Ltd.
Movietone News 2449	BR/E 38357/16/5/81	8	14 May	British Movietonews Ltd.	British Movietonews Ltd.
			COMMUNITY		
Tenderness of the Wolves	EC 38597/16/5/81	85	14 May	Cinegate Ltd.	Tango Film, Munich
			FOREIGN		
Cries	F 38592	19	11 May	Cinema International Corporation (UK)	Universal Pictures, California
W. C. Fields And Me	F 38593	112	11 May	Cinema International Corporation (UK)	Universal Pictures, California
Touch of Zen	F 38595	178	14 May	Seven Keys Ltd.	King Hu Film Productions, Hong Kong
That's Entertainment Part 2	F 38596	126	14 May	Cinema International Corporation (UK)	M.G.M. Inc., California

Amendment to the Register
The title of the film 'It could happen to you' (BR/E 38476/7/3/81) registered on 2 March 1976 has been amended to 'Intimate Teenage Secrets.'

Current account of the United Kingdom balance of payments for April

In April 1976 the current account is estimated to have been in deficit by £135 million. The deficit on trade in goods was £255 million, seasonally adjusted, made up of a deficit of £336 million in trade in oil (that is, petroleum and petroleum products – for details see Table 12) and a surplus of £81 million in trade in non-oil goods. The balance on services and other current transactions is estimated to have been running at a monthly surplus of about £120 million.

In the three months February to April 1976 there was a current account deficit of £155 million compared with £265 million in the previous three months.

£ million seasonally adjusted

	Current balance	Visible balance: trade in goods			Invisible balance:
		Petroleum and petroleum products	Other goods	Total	Services and other current transactions
1975	−1,702	−3,114	−86	−3,200	+1,498
1975 1st quarter	−435	−766	−84	−850	+415
2nd quarter	−336	−689	+8	−681	+345
3rd quarter	−625	−795	−191	−986	+361
4th quarter	−306	−864	+181	−683	+377
1976 1st quarter	−71	−956	+525	−431	+360 (a)
1975 November	−155	−272	−9	−281	+126 (b)
December	−59	−314	+129	−185	+126 (b)
1976 January	−51	−334	+163	−171	+120 (a)
February	−124	−338	+94	−244	+120 (a)
March	+104	−284	+268	−16	+120 (a)
April	−135	−336	+81	−255	+120 (a)
1975 Nov.-Jan. 1976	−265	−920	+283	−637	+372
1976 Feb.-April	−155	−958	+443	−515	+360

(a) These figures are projections and are subject to revision as the relevant statistical information becomes available.

(b) One third of the appropriate calendar quarter's estimate. Monthly figures of invisibles are not available.

TABLE 1 Visible trade on balance of payments basis

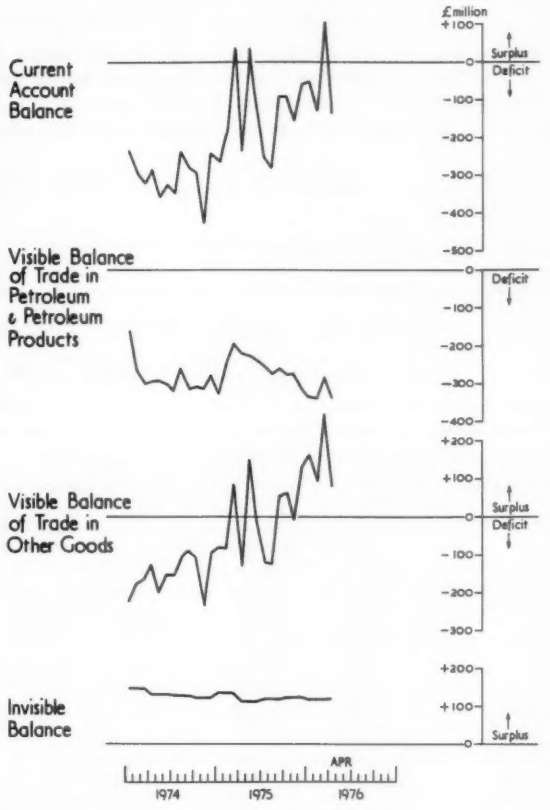
Seasonally adjusted values £ million

	Exports (fob)	Imports (fob)	Visible balance
1974	15,895	21,159	−5,264
1975	18,772	21,972	−3,200
1974 1st quarter	3,481	4,778	−1,297
2nd quarter	4,007	5,373	−1,366
3rd quarter	4,222	5,475	−1,253
4th quarter	4,185	5,533	−1,348
1975 1st quarter	4,532	5,382	−850
2nd quarter	4,479	5,160	−681
3rd quarter	4,635	5,621	−986
4th quarter	5,126	5,809	−683
1976 1st quarter r	5,441	5,872	−431
1975 November	1,637	1,918	−281
December	1,761	1,946	−185
1976 January r	1,777	1,948	−171
1976 February r	1,758	2,002	−244
March r	1,906	1,922	−16
April p	1,949	2,204	−255
1975 Nov.-Jan. 1976	5,175	5,812	−637
Feb.-April	5,613	6,128	−515
Percentage change*	+8½	+5½	

p Provisional estimates. r Revised estimates.

* Percentage change: latest three months on previous three months.

Analysis of the current account of the United Kingdom balance of payments



United Kingdom trade

on a balance of payments basis

seasonally adjusted (except Unit Value Index)

Value: £million fob

Indices 1970 = 100

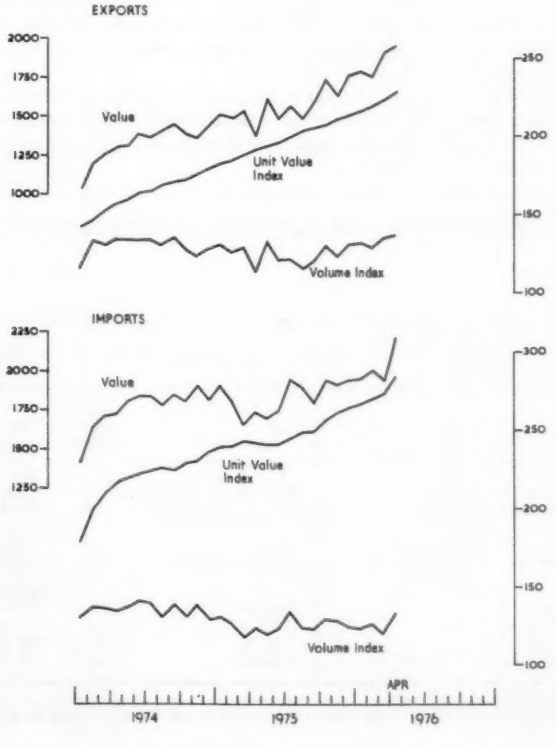


TABLE 2 Invisible trade ¶

Seasonally adjusted values — £ million

	Credits	Debits	Invisible balance
1974	10,018	8,404	+1,614
1975	11,155	9,657	+1,498
1974 1st quarter	2,453	2,011	+442
2nd quarter	2,461	2,064	+397
3rd quarter	2,465	2,073	+392
4th quarter	2,639	2,256	+383
1975 1st quarter	2,695	2,280	+415
2nd quarter	2,750	2,405	+345
3rd quarter	2,798	2,437	+361
4th quarter	2,912	2,535	+377
1976 January			+120
February			+120
March			+120
April			+120

¶ See Note 1 (g).
• These figures are projections and are subject to revision as the relevant statistical information becomes available.

TABLE 3 Export and import unit value and volume index numbers on a balance of payments basis

Indices 1970 = 100

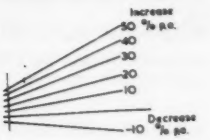
	Unit values (not seasonally adjusted)			Volume (seasonally adjusted)	
	Exports	Imports	Terms of trade†	Exports	Imports
1974	162.7	218.0	74.6	130.1	135.2
1975	198.5	245.7	80.8	124.9	125.6
1974 1st quarter	147.2	194.9	75.5	126.7	133.9
2nd quarter	159.9	218.7	73.1	134.0	137.5
3rd quarter	168.1	224.5	74.9	133.4	136.4
4th quarter	175.8	231.7	75.9	126.5	133.0
1975 1st quarter	184.9	240.5	76.9	128.9	125.4
2nd quarter	193.4	241.1	80.2	122.6	122.2
3rd quarter r	202.2	247.1	81.8	120.0	127.4
4th quarter	210.1	260.4	80.7	128.3	127.2
1976 1st quarter r	219.0	269.7	81.2	132.2	123.4
1975 November	210.5	260.5	80.8	123.4	128.0
December	212.6	264.8	80.3	130.9	124.7
1976 January r	215.6	266.3	81.0	131.9	124.5
1976 February	218.9	269.3	81.3	129.2	125.8
March r	222.6	273.6	81.3	135.6	120.0
April p	228.1	284.5	80.2	136.7	132.6
1975 Nov.-Jan. 1976	212.9	263.9	80.7	128.7	125.7
Feb.-April	223.2	275.8	80.9	133.8	126.1
Percentage change	+5	+4½	—	+4	+½

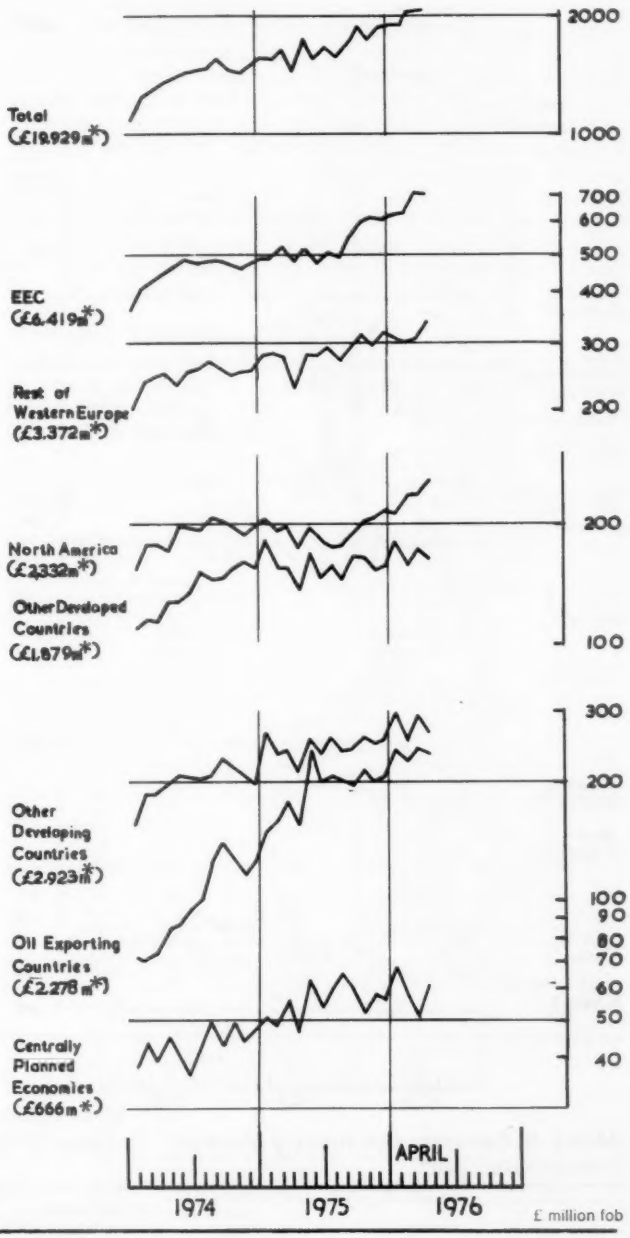
† Export Unit Value Index as a percentage of the Import Unit Value Index.
p Provisional estimates.
r Revised estimates.

Exports by areas

on an Overseas Trade Statistics basis

£million cif seasonally adjusted log scale





£ million fob

TABLE 4 Exports: areas¶ Overseas Trade Statistics basis

Seasonally adjusted values

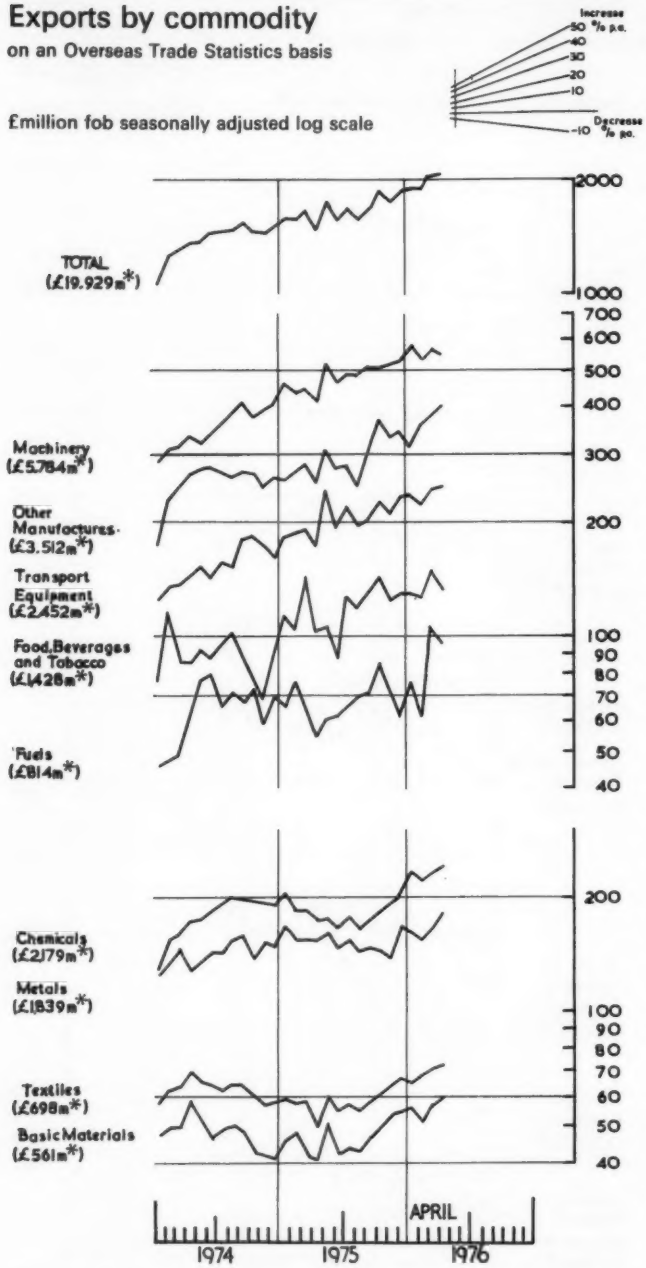
		Developed countries				Developing countries		
	Total	EEC	Rest of W. Europe	North America	Other	Oil exporting countries	Other	Centrally planned economies
1975	19,929	6,419	3,372	2,332	1,879	2,278	2,923	666
1975 2nd quarter	4,744	1,494	782	553	451	585	699	163
3rd quarter	4,940	1,560	847	544	465	596	732	183
4th quarter	5,464	1,851	915	632	472	614	759	167
1976 1st quarter r	5,775	1,969	916	695	508	704	842	175
1976 February r	1,880	633	301	239	158	224	255	57
March r	2,014	711	308	240	172	241	294	51
April p	2,043	704	335	257	163	234	265	61
1975 November-April 1976	5,485	1,864	911	642	488	642	796	181
February-April	5,937	2,048	945	736	493	699	814	169
Percentage change	+8½	+10	+3½	+15	+1	+9	+2½	−6½

¶ See Note 1 (b). r Revised estimates. p Provisional estimates.

Exports by commodity

on an Overseas Trade Statistics basis

£million fob seasonally adjusted log scale



VISIBLE TRADE

(a) Summary (figures on a balance of payments basis) (see Tables 1 and 3)

In April there was a deficit on visible trade of £255 million, seasonally adjusted; the value of exports was £1,949 million and the value of imports £2,204 million. The deficit was £239 million more than in March which was erratically low. The worsening in April resulted from a rise of £282 million in imports compared with a rise of £43 million in exports. The growth in imports was widely spread although erratic features, such as high imports of precious stones, the arrival of an oil rig and a rise in imports of crude oil from low March level, explain about one half of the increase. In addition it is clear that the figures for April have been affected by the recent depreciation of sterling. The import unit value index rose by 4 per cent between March and April and the export unit value index rose by 2½ per cent compared with recent monthly increases of around 1½ per cent in each case. As a result the terms of trade index decreased by 1½ per cent in April. In terms of volume, exports rose by 1 per cent and imports by 10 per cent.

In the three months ended April, the deficit on visible trade, at £515 million, was £122 million less than in the previous three months. The surplus on non-oil trade increased by £160 million to reach £443 million: this more than offset a rise of £38 million in the oil trade deficit from £920 million to £958 million.

Exports were valued at £5,613 million in February/April, 8½ per cent higher than in the previous three months; imports, at £6,128 million, were 5½ per cent higher. The volume of exports increased by 4 per cent compared with a rise of ½ per cent in the volume of imports. There was little change in the terms of trade index, the export unit value index increasing by 5 per cent and the import unit value index by 4½ per cent.

(b) Exports (Overseas Trade Statistics basis)

(i) Area analysis (see Table 4). The value of exports to the developed countries in aggregate was 8 per cent higher in February/April than in the preceding three months. Exports to North America continued to rise strongly, by 15 per cent, and there was an increase of 10 per cent in the value of goods despatched to the EEC. Exports to the rest of Western Europe rose by 3½ per cent and there was an increase of 1 per cent in shipments to the other developed countries (Australia, New Zealand, South Africa and Japan). Exports to the developing countries in aggregate rose by 5 per cent with shipments to the oil exporting countries increasing by 9 per cent. The value of exports to the centrally planned economies fell by 6½ per cent.

(ii) Commodity analysis (see Tables 5, 6 and 7). In the three months February/April exports of manufactured goods were 7 per cent higher by value and 3 per cent by volume than in the previous three months. Within this broad category, exports of chemicals and textiles rose by 11 per cent and 9 per cent respectively, with increased volume and price contributing, and there was a 7 per cent rise in exports of metals and miscellaneous metal manufactures, mainly the

TABLE 5 Exports: commodity classes¶ Overseas Trade Statistics basis

Seasonally adjusted values — £ million fob

					Manufactures									
						Machinery and transport equipment								
	Total	Food, beverages and tobacco	Basic materials	Fuels	Total	Total	Machinery	Road motor vehicles	Other transport equipment*	Chemicals	Metals and miscellaneous metal manufactures	Textiles	Other manufactures	Miscellaneous
1975	19,929	1,428	561	814	16,464	8,236	5,784	1,737	715	2,179	1,839	698	3,512	662
1975 2nd quarter	4,744	295	135	178	3,963	2,012	1,391	418	191	512	462	163	837	157
3rd quarter	4,940	373	134	207	4,079	2,112	1,486	451	165	516	447	170	825	169
4th quarter	5,464	396	156	219	4,518	2,208	1,564	456	210	579	451	190	1,045	179
1976 1st quarter r	5,775	404	164	243	4,763	2,376	1,679	512	190	683	484	204	1,048	194
1976 February r	1,880	126	52	62	1,572	769	539	168	56	221	155	68	357	69
March r	2,014	149	57	106	1,635	793	566	180	63	231	167	71	380	63
April p	2,043	134	60	97	1,699	814	556	193	54	242	181	73	402	59
1975 Nov.-Jan. 1976	5,485	383	163	208	4,586	2,294	1,628	472	205	625	470	195	987	166
Feb.-April	5,937	409	169	265	4,906	2,375	1,661	541	174	694	502	212	1,138	191
Percentage change	+8½	+7	+4	+27	+7	+3½	+2	+15	−15	+11	+7	+9	+15	+15

* Not seasonally adjusted. ¶ See note 1(b). r Revised estimates. p Provisional estimates.

result of higher volume. Exports of road motor vehicles and other transport equipment rose by 5½ per cent by value, the result of higher prices; within this category there was an increase of 15 per cent in the value of exports of road motor vehicles and a fall of 15 per cent in the value of exports of other transport equipment. Exports of other manufactures rose 15 per cent by value and 13 per cent by volume. The value of shipments of non-manufactures rose by 12 per cent between the latest two three-monthly periods; within this there was a 27 per cent rise in the value of exports of fuels, mainly higher volume, and a 7 per cent rise in the value of exports of food, beverages and tobacco entirely due to higher prices.

(c) Imports (Overseas Trade Statistics basis)

(i) Commodity Analysis (see Tables 8, 10 and 11). Imports of food, beverages and tobacco were little changed in value in the three months ended April compared with the previous three months, a 3½ per cent fall in volume being offset by higher prices. Imports of fuels rose 6½ per cent in value because of higher prices. Imports of industrial materials increased by 12 per cent in value with volume the major factor. Within this group, a 15 per cent rise in volume was the major influence in the 19 per cent increase in the value of imports of basic materials; increased price was the main factor in the 8 per cent rise in the value of imports of chemicals, while the increase of 10 per cent in the value of other semi-manufactures was due more to volume than price. In terms of volume, imports of finished manufactures in total were little changed. Imports of machinery fell by 4½ per cent in volume, despite the arrival of a further oil rig, but imports of road motor vehicles and other transport equipment rose by 22 per cent in volume, partly reflecting the inclusion of three large aircraft in the latest three months. The rise in prices averaged 7 per cent for finished manufactures as a whole, including a rise of 10 per cent for road motor vehicles and other transport equipment. In terms of value, these movements resulted in a 5 per cent increase in finished manufactures; imports of machinery were little changed, road motor vehicles rose by 8½ per cent and other transport equipment doubled.

(ii) Area analysis (see Table 9). The value of imports from the developed countries in aggregate was 7½ per cent higher in the three months February to April than in the previous three months. There was a large rise of 22 per cent in imports from North America while deliveries from the EEC and the rest of Western Europe increased by 5½ per cent and 6½ per cent respectively. In contrast arrivals from the other developed countries (Australia, New Zealand, South Africa and Japan) fell by 6 per cent. Among the developing countries, imports from the oil exporters rose by 8½ per cent while those from the other developing countries increased by 3 per cent. Imports from the centrally planned economies were 7½ per cent higher.

INVISIBLE TRADE (see Table 2)

The balance on services and other current transactions is estimated to have been running at a monthly surplus of about £120 million, with monthly credits and debits of the order of £950 million and £850 million respectively.

TABLE 6 Exports: volume indices Overseas Trade Statistics basis

Seasonally adjusted — Indices 1970 = 100

					Manufactures							
						Machinery and transport equipment						
	Total	Food, beverages and tobacco	Basic materials	Fuels	Total	Total	Machinery	Road motor vehicles and other transport equipment	Chemicals	Metals and miscellaneous metal manufactures	Textiles	Other manufactures
Weights	1,000	64	34	26	844	410	276	134	97	119	49	169
1975	129.8	155	107	93	130	133	136	128	142	102	105	145
1975 2nd quarter	127.2	133	103	87	129	133	134	130	135	103	100	143
3rd quarter	125.1	149	104	91	127	133	138	123	136	97	103	131
4th quarter	133.7	170	118	90	133	131	134	130	145	93	113	160
1976 1st quarter	137.2	166	119	93	137	136	139	130	168	101	117	159
1976 February	134.9	157	115	73	136	133	135	125	162	96	117	164
March r	140.3	178	119	120	138	132	137	131	165	102	121	170
April p	140.3	153	122	110	141	134	132	132	169	109	124	177
1975 November-January 1976	133.5	163	122	83	135	135	138	130	157	98	115	150
February-April	138.5	163	119	101	139	133	135	129	165	102	121	170
Percentage change	+3½	—	−2½	+21	+3	−1½	−2½	−½	+5	+4½	+4½	+13

p Provisional estimates. r Revised estimates.

TABLE 7 Exports: unit value indices Overseas Trade Statistics basis

Not seasonally adjusted — Indices 1970 = 100

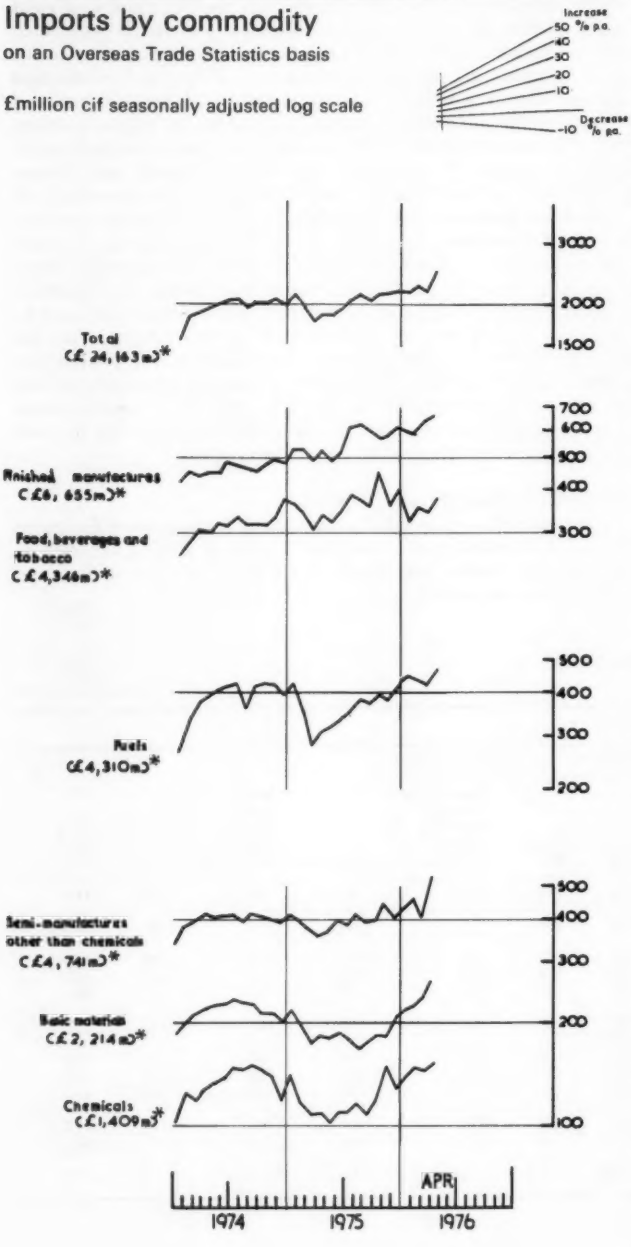
					Manufactures							
						Machinery and transport equipment						
	Total	Food, beverages and tobacco	Basic materials	Fuels	Total	Total	Machinery	Road motor vehicles and other transport equipment	Chemicals	Metals and miscellaneous metal manufactures	Textiles	Other manufactures
1975	198.3	178	198	439	193	196	200	189	209	194	177	180
1975 2nd quarter	193.4	176	199	421	188	190	192	185	209	189	177	172
3rd quarter	202.0	183	200	442	197	201	202	201	209	195	177	185
4th quarter	210.1	187	202	474	205	213	217	203	211	202	180	192
1976 1st quarter r	218.9	192	211	496	214	224	231	210	219	206	185	199
1976 February	218.8	195	211	492	214	224	231	209	219	205	186	200
March r	222.5	198	217	503	217	229	236	214	223	207	188	202
April p	228.2	208	219	515	223	236	243	222	227	209	187	207
1975 November-January 1976	212.8	186	202	486	208	216	222	205	213	204	181	194
February-April	223.2	200	216	503	218	230	237	215	223	207	187	203
Percentage change	+5	+7½	+6½	+3½	+5	+6	+7	+5	+4½	+1½	+3½	+4½

p Provisional estimates. r Revised estimates.

Imports by commodity

on an Overseas Trade Statistics basis

£million cif seasonally adjusted log scale



NOTES

1(a) Trade figures on a Balance of Payments basis. The seasonally adjusted import and export figures on a Balance of Payments basis are obtained by making various adjustments to the seasonally adjusted figures derived from those recorded in the monthly *Overseas Trade Statistics*. These adjustments are summarised in Table 13 of this article. Some are valuation adjustments; the principal of these is the deduction from the import figure of freight and insurance costs. The other adjustments relate to coverage, either to bring in items not in the Trade Statistics (for example on the import side ships built and delivered abroad direct to UK owners) or to remove items which are in the Trade Statistics (mainly returned goods and goods for processing and repair). The adjustment of imports to a balance of payments basis excludes the values of deliveries of US military aircraft (including spares and some missiles) but includes the payments for those imports which are mainly being financed by a special Exim Bank credit (the values involved are now small). All these adjustments are described in greater detail in the annual '*Pink Book*' *United Kingdom Balance of Payments 1964-74* (Table 4 and pages 64-67) and in an article in the issue of *Trade and Industry* dated 4 November 1970.

Since firm figures for the adjustments do not become available as quickly as the recorded trade statistics, the figures for imports and exports on a balance of payments basis in the latest months are at this stage preliminary estimates and liable to revision.

1(b). The adjustments described at Note 1(a) are made only for the monthly totals of exports and imports (Table 1) and the monthly figures of trade in petroleum and petroleum products (Table 12). They are not estimated for the area and other commodity analyses of trade. The values of total trade and the main components of exports and imports in Tables 4 to 11 are available only on the Overseas Trade Statistics basis. Whereas comment on total trade and trade in petroleum and petroleum products relates to figures for exports and imports on a balance of payments basis, analyses of the area and other commodity patterns of trade in this article are based on the figures on the Overseas Trade Statistics basis in Tables 4 to 11. The main components of trade are seasonally adjusted independently from the totals and in consequence do not always add exactly to the seasonally adjusted totals.

1(c) Visible balance. The visible balance is the difference between the import and export figures on a balance of payments basis obtained as described in Note 1(a) above. Since, as noted above, the import and export figures for the most recent months are provisional, it follows that the monthly visible balances for these months are also provisional and liable to revision.

The monthly figures for the visible balance are published only on a seasonally adjusted basis. Since the balance is the difference of two large and variable figures, it is itself liable to fluctuation and undue significance should not be attached to a single month's figure; it is more useful to consider the average balance over three or more months.

TABLE 8 Imports: commodity classes¶ Overseas Trade Statistics basis

Seasonally adjusted values — £ million cif

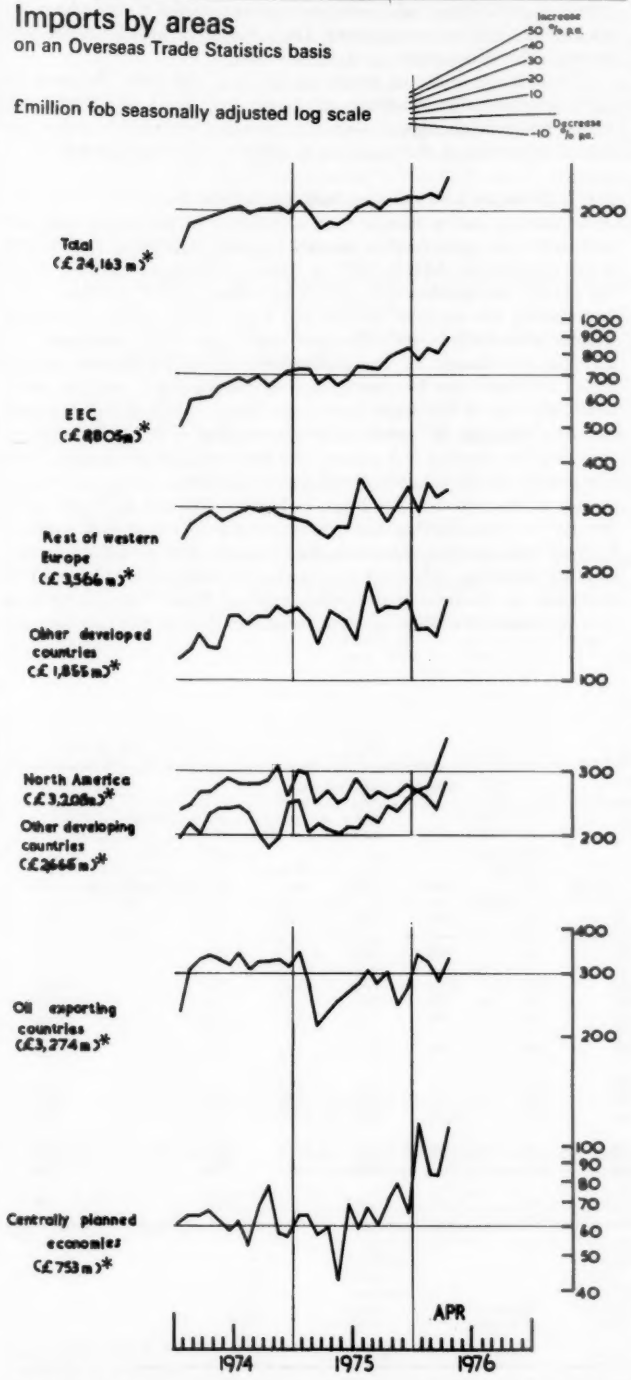
				Industrial materials				Finished manufactures						
									Machinery and transport equipment					
	Total	Food, beverages and tobacco	Fuels	Total	Basic materials	Chemicals	Other semi-manufactures	Total	Total	Machinery	Road motor vehicles	Other transport equipment*	Other	Miscellaneous
1975	24,163	4,346	4,310	8,364	2,214	1,409	4,741	6,655	4,782	3,603	883	297	1,872	489
1975 2nd quarter	5,632	1,004	955	1,991	545	320	1,126	1,524	1,079	800	224	71	445	125
3rd quarter	6,191	1,119	1,110	2,041	519	331	1,191	1,836	1,364	1,056	229	70	472	105
4th quarter	6,462	1,208	1,190	2,203	568	394	1,242	1,757	1,246	955	234	60	511	106
1976 1st quarter r	6,612	1,020	1,303	2,402	676	430	1,295	1,818	1,265	901	264	95	553	92
1976 February r	2,250	351	436	829	222	148	460	589	411	298	88	23	178	33
March r	2,181	344	421	788	236	146	407	631	443	311	87	50	188	29
April p	2,488	379	465	949	262	152	536	658	473	337	102	37	185	38
1975 Nov.-April 1976	6,505	1,081	1,240	2,289	605	411	1,273	1,790	1,254	940	255	55	536	99
Feb.-April	6,919	1,075	1,321	2,567	720	445	1,402	1,878	1,327	946	277	110	551	99
Percentage change	+6½	−½	+6½	+12	+19	+8	+10	+5	+6	+½	+8½	+103	+2½	+1

* Not seasonally adjusted. ¶See Note 1(b). r Revised estimates. p Provisional estimates.

Imports by areas

on an Overseas Trade Statistics basis

£million fob seasonally adjusted log scale



1(d) Trends. Even after allowing for seasonal influences, the sequence of monthly figures is usually too variable to give a satisfactory indication of the underlying trend. While it is possible to construct elaborate estimates of trend these cannot be applied to the most recent months, and a simple method of giving some guidance on underlying movements in the most recent past is to take averages of three months. Apart from occasions when major disturbances distort the flows of trade, the three-monthly average gives a quite good short-term guide and has the merit of simplicity.

1(e) Recording of exports. The present system for the documentation of exports aimed at securing their full recording was introduced in October 1971; the system, and the methods used to monitor the accuracy of the resulting figures, were described in an article in *Trade and Industry*, 15 February 1973.

Regular assessments of the quality of recording indicated that, from the beginning of 1972 until late 1973 there was no need to make adjustments to the export figures for a shortfall in documentation. Some errors in recording remained, whereby either the need to submit a document was overlooked or, on the other hand, two documents might be submitted for the same goods. The amount of these errors had been substantially reduced, and they more or less balanced out, leaving the total recorded figure of exports in each month virtually correct.

From the autumn of 1973 until the end of 1974, however, there was evidence of a slight deterioration causing a small net amount of under-recording of about half of one per cent. In view of this evidence an adjustment, varying between £6 million and £8 million, was made for each month between October 1973 and December 1974, with smaller notional amounts in July to September 1973.

The monthly monitoring and follow-up process takes some time to carry out, so that the evidence becomes available several months in arrear. The evidence now available for 1975 shows a distinct and sustained improvement so that the amount of net under-recording is again negligible. As a result it is no longer necessary to make any adjustment for net under-recording to the monthly export figures from January 1975 onwards.

Regular monitoring of the quality of recording will continue.

1(f) Timing. The figures for exports relate to documents received in the Statistical Office of HM Customs and Excise up to a few days before the end of the calendar month. On average export documents arrive at the Customs Statistical Office within a fortnight of the shipment of goods, so that the documents relate to goods passing through the ports in the month ending about the middle of the calendar month to which they are attributed. The figures for imports relate to documents received at the Customs Statistical Office up to the third working day after the end of the month. Importers are usually required to present their documents before they can obtain Customs clearance and remove the goods. Thus the import statistics correspond closely to movements through the ports during the calendar month to which they are attributed.

1(g) Invisible trade (services and other current transactions) covers the following items: Government services and transfer payments; all other services including sea and air transport, travel, and insurance, banking and other financial transactions; overseas

TABLE 9 Imports: areas¶ Overseas Trade Statistics basis

Seasonally adjusted values

£ million ci

	Total	Developed countries				Developing countries		Centrally planned economies
		EEC	Rest of W. Europe	North America	Other	Oil exporting countries	Other	
1975	24,163	8,805	3,566	3,208	1,855	3,274	2,666	753
1975 2nd quarter	5,632	2,043	787	768	456	751	620	170
3rd quarter	6,191	2,215	1,013	802	476	864	652	186
4th quarter	6,462	2,423	941	789	491	825	724	213
1976 1st quarter r	6,612	2,423	978	871	414	941	760	276
1976 February r	2,250	831	354	277	140	323	254	82
March r	2,181	815	328	329	134	282	238	81
April p	2,488	899	339	370	166	328	282	111
1975 November-January 1976	6,505	2,417	957	800	468	860	751	255
February-April	6,919	2,545	1,020	977	441	933	775	274
Percentage change	+6½	+5½	+6½	+22	−6	+8½	+3	+7½

¶ See Note 1(b). r Revised estimates. p Provisional estimates.

income in the form of interest, profits and dividends; and private transfers. The monthly figures are inevitably less precise than those for visible trade for several reasons: the data are not available on a monthly basis (some are reported quarterly, others less frequently) and the figures are, therefore, essentially projections based on past trends though subject to modification for special factors (eg timing of quarterly EEC contributions and receipts) which affect the trend; revisions, affecting particularly gross credits and debits, but often the balance as well, are more frequent; and the gross figures themselves include a number of items which are appropriately recorded as the net profit or surplus arising on the transactions.

1(h) Trade in petroleum and petroleum products. Trade in petroleum and petroleum products (Table 12) accounts for almost all the trade in Fuels, Section 3 of SITC(R) which is included in Tables 5 and 8. Import figures are shown for crude oil and for the rest of the division which includes petroleum partly refined for further refining and petroleum products (eg motor spirit, lamp oil and white spirit, distillate fuels, residual fuel oils, lubricating oils and greases, etc.).

The figures of value and tonnage of crude oil imports in Table 12 are based on reports to HM Customs and Excise and have been seasonally adjusted with the same seasonal and length of month factors as have been used for the Fuels totals in Tables 5 and 8. These figures cannot be directly compared with the monthly import tonnages originating from the Department of Energy which are published in the *Monthly Digest of Statistics* and the *Digest of Energy Statistics*, as the latter are based on reports received directly from the oil industry and are unadjusted. Over longer periods the differences between the two sources are largely resolved.

The average value of crude oil per ton has been obtained by dividing the value of crude oil imports by the tonnage and will reflect not only changes in price but also changes in the commodity mix of imports due, for example, to differing qualities of crude oil.

1(i) Unit value and volume indices. A brief description of the way in which the index numbers on a balance of payments basis are calculated was published in the article giving unit value and volume index numbers for March 1971 in *Trade and Industry* of 26 May 1971. An article was published in *Trade and Industry* on 11 October 1973 introducing the series of import and export unit value and volume indices with 1970 = 100. The purpose of the index numbers is to measure the changes in price and volume of our imports and exports. Index numbers can be constructed in various ways, and the series used here are of the fixed base type. Thus, the unit value indices measure changes in 'price' of a fixed selection of trade headings (although in practice it is not specific prices which are measured but the average price of all the varying transactions taking place each month in the selected headings, reflecting different kinds of goods covered by each heading and different markets or sources of supply). Correspondingly, the volume indices measure, for the same selection of trade headings, what the change in the value of trade would be assuming no changes in the prices charged from those in the base year. Because the indices are base weighted, they do not take account

TABLE 10 Imports: volume indices
Overseas Trade Statistics basis

Seasonally adjusted — Indices 1970 = 100

				Industrial materials				Finished manufactures				
									Machinery and transport equipment			
	Total	Food, beverages and tobacco	Fuels	Total	Basic materials	Chemicals	Other semi-manufactures	Total	Total	Machinery	Road motor vehicles and other transport equipment	Other
Weights	1,000	227	105	427	151	60	216	229	166	133	33	63
1975	124.4	98	89	113	78	122	135	183	182	176	203	186
1975 2nd quarter	120.0	92	85	111	79	112	132	174	170	164	207	184
3rd quarter	126.1	101	91	111	74	117	135	191	193	189	200	187
4th quarter	127.6	107	90	116	78	133	138	182	179	177	190	188
1976 1st quarter	125.7	91	90	123	92	143	140	183	177	164	224	198
1976 February	128.3	93	90	128	91	146	150	180	174	163	216	195
March r	122.9	91	87	118	93	142	128	182	180	164	252	188
April p	136.3	97	91	139	102	140	165	187	187	173	251	185
1975 Nov.-Jan. 1976	127.2	97	89	120	83	139	140	184	179	174	197	198
Feb.-April	129.2	94	90	128	95	143	148	183	180	167	240	189
Percentage change	+1½	−3½	—	+7	+15	+2½	+5	−1	+½	−4½	+22	−4

p Provisional estimates. r Revised estimates.

TABLE 11 Imports: unit value indices
Overseas Trade Statistics basis

Not seasonally adjusted — Indices 1970 = 100

				Industrial materials				Finished manufactures				
									Machinery and transport equipment			
	Total	Food, beverages and tobacco	Fuels	Total	Basic materials	Chemicals	Other semi-manufactures	Total	Total	Machinery	Road motor vehicles and other transport equipment	Other
1975	235.9	219	535	199	215	229	180	188	183	181	194	200
1975 2nd quarter	231.9	219	506	198	213	236	177	186	181	179	191	197
3rd quarter	237.6	217	536	200	213	230	182	196	192	189	204	207
4th quarter	249.5	223	591	206	222	234	187	205	199	197	210	220
1976 1st quarter	258.8	228	636	210	226	239	190	213	207	204	221	226
1976 February	258.6	228	635	209	227	237	189	212	206	203	220	227
March r	262.4	230	640	213	227	244	193	220	216	212	230	232
April p	272.8	239	662	221	237	256	201	228	224	219	242	239
1975 Nov.-Jan. 1976	252.7	224	615	207	223	235	188	206	200	197	210	221
Feb.-April	264.6	232	646	214	231	246	195	220	215	211	231	233
Percentage change	+4½	+4	+5	+3½	+3½	+4½	+3½	+7	+8	+7	+10	+5½

p Provisional estimates. r Revised estimates.

of the changes in the pattern of trade since the base year, and consequently their product does not precisely account for the change in the value of trade expressed as an index. In practice, though, since the composition of trade changes little between consecutive months, the product of the changes in the indices will often approximate to the change in the value of trade between one month and the next. A full methodological article about the 1970-based series of indices was published in the April 1975 issue of *Economic Trends*. Adjustments have been made to the import volume index to include North Sea oil production installations, however no changes have been made to the base-weighted unit value index.

1(j) Definition of areas. The areas used in Tables 4 and 9 of this article comprise of the following countries:

EEC – West Germany, Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg, France, Italy, Denmark and Irish Republic.
Rest of Western Europe – Finland, Sweden, Norway, Iceland, Switzerland, Liechtenstein, Portugal, Austria, Andorra, Vatican City, Greece Turkey, Yugoslavia, Spain, Faroe Islands, Gibraltar, Malta, Continental Shelf (Foreign Part).
North America – USA, Canada, Puerto Rico, US Virgin Islands, Greenland.
Other Developed Countries – Australia, New Zealand, Japan and South Africa.
Centrally Planned Economies – Soviet Union, Poland, East Germany, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Albania, Bulgaria, Romania, China, North Korea, North Vietnam and Outer Mongolia.
Oil Exporting Countries – Abu Dhabi, Algeria, Bahrein, Brunei, Dubai, Ecuador, Gabon, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Libya, Nigeria, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sharjah etc., Trinidad and Tobago, and Venezuela.
Other Developing Countries – All other countries.

2 Overseas Trade Statistics

Detailed particulars of United Kingdom imports and exports for April with cumulative totals will be published on 27 May and further analysis of the figures will be found in Tables 123 to 141 in the Monthly Digest for May, due to be published in the second week of June.

* Overseas Trade Statistics of the United Kingdom, published by HMSO, price £4.75 (Annual subscription £64.44).

† Monthly Digest of Statistics, published by HMSO, price £1.45 (Annual subscription including Supplement of Definitions and postage £21.28).

TABLE 12 Trade in petroleum and petroleum products¶
On a Balance of Payments basis (Division 33 of SITC(R))

Seasonally adjusted

	Balance of Visible trade	Imports					Exports
		Total	Crude oil			Rest of Division 33	Total
	£ million fob	£ million fob	£ million fob	million tons	Average value per ton £ fob	£ million fob	£ million fob
1974	−3,423	4,119	3,342	109.4	30.6	777	696
1975	−3,114	3,835	3,071	85.8	35.8	764	721
1974 1st quarter	−730	866	703	28.5	24.8	163	136
2nd quarter	−890	1,092	902	28.3	32.0	190	202
3rd quarter	−897	1,080	868	26.5	32.9	212	183
4th quarter	−906	1,081	869	26.1	33.4	212	175
1975 1st quarter	−766	943	753	22.1	34.2	190	177
2nd quarter	−689	843	698	20.7	33.7	145	154
3rd quarter	−795	985	806	22.7	35.6	179	190
4th quarter	−864	1,064	814	20.3	40.2	250	200
1976 1st quarter	−956	1,178	928	21.4	43.1	250	221
1976 February	−338	393	322	7.4	43.2	71	55
March	−284	381	279	6.4	43.3	102	97
April p	−336	423	333	7.5	44.3	90	87
1975 November-January 1976	−921	1,113	854	20.4	41.8	259	192
February-April	−958	1,197	934	21.3	43.6	263	239
Percentage change		+7½	+9½	+4½	+4½	+1½	+24

p Provisional estimates. r Revised estimates. ¶ See Note 1(h).

TABLE 13 Derivation of the visible trade figures on a balance of payments basis

£ million

	Exports				Imports				
	Recorded	Seasonally adjusted†			Recorded	Seasonally adjusted†			
	Overseas Trade Statistics basis (fob)	Overseas Trade Statistics basis (fob)	Coverage adjustments	Balance of Payments basis (fob)	Overseas Trade Statistics basis (cif)	Overseas Trade Statistics basis (cif)	Adjustments to BOP basis: Valuation adjustments	Adjustments to BOP basis: Coverage adjustments	Balance of Payments basis (fob)
1974	16,600	16,600	−705	15,895	23,283	23,283	−1,652	−472	21,159
1975	19,929	19,929	−1,156	18,772	24,163	24,163	−1,604	−587	21,972
1974 1st quarter	3,617	3,637	−156	3,481	5,386	5,281	−418	−85	4,778
2nd quarter	4,188	4,145	−138	4,007	6,014	5,949	−421	−154	5,373
3rd quarter	4,258	4,430	−208	4,222	5,807	6,005	−415	−115	5,475
4th quarter	4,536	4,388	−203	4,185	6,076	6,049	−398	−118	5,533
1975 1st quarter	4,595	4,781	−249	4,532	5,882	5,879	−374	−122	5,382
2nd quarter	4,943	4,744	−265	4,479	5,844	5,632	−385	−87	5,160
3rd quarter	4,798	4,940	−305	4,635	6,010	6,191	−415	−155	5,621
4th quarter	5,593	5,464	−337	5,126	6,427	6,462	−430	−222	5,809
1976 1st quarter	5,818	5,775	−334	5,441	6,820	6,612	−440	−300	5,872
1975 November	1,694	1,751	−114	1,637	2,005	2,130	−136	−76	1,918
December	1,898	1,854	−93	1,761	2,104	2,195	−145	−103	1,946
1976 January r	1,783	1,881	−103	1,777	2,137	2,181	−148	−85	1,948
1976 February r	1,775	1,880	−122	1,758	2,134	2,250	−146	−102	2,002
March r	2,260	2,014	−108	1,906	2,549	2,181	−146	−112	1,922
April p	2,033	2,043	−94	1,949	2,536	2,488	−161	−123	2,204
1975 Nov.-Jan. 1976	5,375	5,485	−310	5,175	6,246	6,506	−429	−264	5,812
Feb.-April	6,068	5,937	−324	5,613	7,219	6,919	−453	−337	6,128
Percentage change	+13	+8½		+8½	+16	+6½			+5½

† Components and totals are rounded independently. p provisional estimates. r revised estimates.

Deliveries of man-made fibres in the first quarter of 1976

Total deliveries of man-made fibres in the first quarter of 1976 were 18 per cent more than in the first quarter of 1975. Deliveries of continuous filament yarns to the home trade were 16 per cent more than in the first quarter of 1975, while deliveries of staple fibre were 22 per cent more.

Deliveries of staple fibre (*a*)

Thousand metric tons

	Total	Home					Exports (*b*)
		Total	Cotton spinning	Wool spinning	Flax spinning	Other systems and sundries	
1968	282.4	173.1	52.3	58.2	26.3	36.3	109.3
1969	299.3	169.2	51.1	51.5	28.0	38.6	130.1
1970	329.4	191.4	57.6	57.1	31.5	45.2	138.1
1971	338.7	185.9	59.6	50.1	29.3	46.9	152.9
1972	363.9	186.4	49.5	33.4	103.5		177.5
1973	434.8	235.4	62.8	56.0	116.7		199.4
1974	346.1	190.4	51.4	51.1	87.9		155.7
1975	283.2	158.8	39.4	50.1	69.3		124.4
1974 1st qtr.	103.8	48.3	12.6	13.0	22.6		55.5
2nd qtr.	103.2	59.7	16.5	14.9	28.3		43.5
3rd qtr.	83.4	45.1	11.5	12.1	21.5		38.3
4th qtr.	55.8	37.3	10.9	11.0	15.4		18.4
1975 1st qtr.	72.8	36.5	8.6	12.2	15.7		36.3
2nd qtr.	75.8	43.6	10.4	14.0	19.2		32.2
3rd qtr.	58.3	36.1	9.5	9.9	16.7		22.2
4th qtr.	76.4	42.6	10.9	13.9	17.7		33.8
1976 1st qtr.	83.2	44.4	11.5	12.5	20.5		38.8

(*a*) The classification of end uses was revised in January 1972, and the figures for deliveries to individual industries from the first quarter 1972 are not comparable with those for earlier years.

(*b*) The figures refer to deliveries from the industry direct for export and may differ from the totals recorded as exports in the monthly trade accounts.

Production of man-made fibres in March

In the three months ended March 1976 the volume of production of man-made fibres, seasonally adjusted, was estimated to have been 3 per cent more than in the three months ended December 1975. Total production by weight of man-made fibres in the period January-March 1976 was 24 per cent higher than in January-March 1975, output of continuous filament increased by 24 per cent and staple fibre increased by 23 per cent.

Man-made fibre production

Thousand metric tons

	Total	Continuous filament (singles)	Staple fibre
1968	539.1	241.8	297.4
1969	553.9	252.5	301.5
1970	599.4	257.6	341.9
1971	613.1	276.4	336.7
1972	626.5	264.0	362.5
1973	730.8	305.6	425.3
1974	627.6	271.0	356.6
1975	562.5	246.5	316.0
1974 1st quarter	174.0	69.9	104.1
2nd quarter	175.1	71.7	103.4
3rd quarter	149.9	67.1	82.7
4th quarter	128.6	62.3	66.3
1975 1st quarter	129.1	56.4	72.7
2nd quarter	148.8	61.9	86.9
3rd quarter	134.1	58.5	75.7
4th quarter	150.4	69.7	80.7
1976 1st quarter	159.8	70.0	89.8
1975 January	42.1	18.2	24.0
February	42.6	17.6	25.0
March	44.3	20.6	23.7
April	48.1	20.0	28.1
May	53.6	22.3	31.4
June	47.0	19.6	27.4
July	47.0	19.3	27.7
August	40.8	17.9	22.8
September	46.3	21.2	25.1
October	55.1	24.0	31.1
November	49.1	23.6	25.5
December	46.2	22.1	24.1
1976 January	53.3	24.1	29.2
February	52.3	22.6	29.7
March	54.1	23.2	30.9

Deliveries of continuous filament yarns (*a*)

Thousand metric tons

	Total	Home						Exports as yarn (*b*)
		Total	Broad weaving	Carpets and rugs	Weft knitting	Warp knitting	Industrial purposes (tyres etc.)	Other purposes	
1968	238.4	188.9	35.3	4.7	54.9	32.0	52.2	9.8	49.4
1969	242.7	193.6	33.7	5.5	51.9	35.3	58.8	8.4	49.1
1970	254.8	198.1	28.2	7.1	63.7	38.0	53.3	7.8	56.7
1971	261.4	198.7	25.3	8.7	69.9	41.4	43.5	9.9	62.7

	Total	Home						Exports as yarn (*b*)
		Total	Broad weaving	Carpets and rugs	Warp knitting	Industrial purposes (tyres, etc.)	Other purposes	Textured or texturing for all purposes other than carpets or industrial	
1972	270.1	198.7	25.1	13.4	40.4	40.3	10.0	69.0	71.4
1973	313.6	227.5	25.8	19.4	46.6	45.4	13.0	77.4	86.1
1974	259.4	188.6	22.3	14.1	35.8	35.1	11.9	69.3	70.8
1975	246.9	185.8	21.7	17.3	33.1	35.4	10.5	67.8	61.1
1974 1st quarter	72.7	50.9	4.8	4.0	10.8	9.0	3.1	19.2	21.7
2nd quarter	71.9	51.8	6.2	4.4	9.9	9.6	3.2	18.5	20.1
3rd quarter	59.4	43.6	5.7	3.2	8.4	7.4	3.0	15.9	15.8
4th quarter	55.4	42.3	5.6	2.5	6.7	9.1	2.6	15.7	13.1
1975 1st quarter	58.1	43.8	5.3	3.6	7.9	9.1	2.0	15.9	14.4
2nd quarter	62.7	48.2	6.3	4.3	8.6	9.2	2.5	17.3	14.6
3rd quarter	57.5	43.5	4.8	3.7	8.0	8.1	2.8	16.2	14.0
4th quarter	68.6	50.3	5.3	5.8	8.6	9.0	3.1	18.4	18.2
1976 1st quarter	71.4	50.7	5.0	5.9	9.1	10.5	3.7	16.6	20.6

(*a*) The classification of end uses was revised in January 1968 and the figures for deliveries to individual industries 1968 to 1971 might not be fully comparable with those for earlier years. From January 1972 a further reclassification was introduced: deliveries of textured yarns and yarns for texturing, which were previously included in the figures for individual industries, are shown separately from the first quarter 1972.

(*b*) The figures refer to deliveries from the industry direct for export and may differ from the totals recorded as exports in the monthly trade accounts.

Index of the volume of production

1970 = 100

		Actual	Seasonally adjusted
1968		87	
1969		92	
1970		100	
1971		106	
1972		107	
1973		127	
1974		111	
1975		101	
1974	1st quarter	120	118
	2nd quarter	119	116
	3rd quarter	109	116
	4th quarter	96	95
1975	1st quarter	92	91
	2nd quarter	104	101
	3rd quarter	96	101
	4th quarter	112	111
1976	1st quarter	116	114
1975	January	85	83
	February	95	97
	March	96	93
	April	103	102
	May	111	109
	June	98	93
	July	95	100
	August	89	99
	September	103	105
	October	116	110
	November	114	112
	December	105	110
1976	January	116	113
	February	118	120
	March	113	108

The actual figures allow for differences in the length of calendar months but not for holidays or other seasonal variations. The seasonally adjusted figures are based on the seasonal pattern up to the end of 1974, and may be subject to slight revision when the complete figures for 1975 are incorporated.

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Quarterly analysis of man-made fibre production

Production by weight of synthetic fibres in the first quarter of 1976 was 33 per cent more than in the corresponding period of 1975 while production of viscose and acetate fibres was 9 per cent more. Within the total for synthetic fibres, production of continuous filament yarns increased by 25 per cent and staple fibre increased by 43 per cent. Under the heading 'viscose and acetate', production of continuous filament yarn increased by 22 per cent and staple fibres increased by 4 per cent compared with the first quarter 1975.

Analysis of man-made fibre production

Thousand metric tons

		Total		Continuous filament		Staple fibre	
		Synthetic	Viscose +acetate	Synthetic	Viscose +acetate	Synthetic	Viscose +acetate
1968		268.4	270.8	144.3	97.5	124.1	173.3
1969		291.4	262.5	155.9	96.6	135.5	166.0
1970		336.9	262.5	166.6	90.9	170.3	171.6
1971		357.3	255.7	191.2	85.2	166.1	170.6
1972		373.9	252.6	196.4	67.6	177.5	185.0
1973		453 9	277.0	233.0	72.6	220.9	204.4
1974		396.1	231.5	200.3	70.7	195.8	160.8
1975		361.1	201.4	184.0	62.5	177.1	138.9
1974	1st quarter	105.3	68.7	52.4	17.6	52.9	51.1
	2nd quarter	104.6	70.5	51.3	20.4	53.4	50.1
	3rd quarter	101.5	48.4	48.9	18.2	52.5	30.2
	4th quarter	84.7	43.9	47.8	14.5	36.9	29.4
1975	1st quarter	78.3	50.8	41.7	14.7	36.6	36.1
	2nd quarter	93.5	55.3	45.9	16.0	47.6	39.3
	3rd quarter	87.2	46.9	43.6	14.9	43.6	32.0
	4th quarter	102.1	48.3	52.8	16.9	49.2	31.4
1976	1st quarter	104.2	55.6	52.0	18.0	52.2	37.6

The heading 'Viscose + acetate' includes triacetate.

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ENCIRCLE TI 30 ON PAGE 519 FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Metal working machine tools: sales and orders in February

This article presents in Table 1 provisional monthly statistics of manufacturers' sales and orders for metal working machine tools up to and including February of this year. These monthly values of sales and orders will be published in the Business Monitor PM332 and full details of the quarterly inquiry will be published in the Business Monitor PQ332. The monthly estimates up to March 1975 have been adjusted to be consistent with the more comprehensive quarterly inquiry and the latest provisional estimates will be similarly revised when the appropriate information becomes available.

Summary

Provisional monthly statistics available up to and including February of this year showed that the increase in activity noticed towards the end of 1975 was maintained unchanged at the beginning of the current year. Total sales, at £82 million for the latest three months, were just above the value of the previous three months, and showed an increase on 17 per cent in current value terms over the corresponding period a year earlier. These increases may still conceal slight falls in volume, if the rising prices of machine tools are taken into account.

The inflow of new home and export orders showed a marked increase in the last three months, enough to slow the decline of orders in hand, but not to halt it. Orders in hand at the end of February, at £181 million, were still 4 per cent lower than at the end of the previous three months, to reach the lowest level in current value terms since December 1972. This level of outstanding orders, an all time low in real terms, corresponds at recent rates of activity to little more than six months work in the industry. Although new orders received at home and abroad appear particularly favourable when compared with the previous three months, with an increase of 20 per cent in the market and 94 per cent on the export side, this latter high increase has been accentuated by the particularly poor performance in the export market during the previous three months. New Orders in

TABLE 1 Metal working machine tools: orders and sales

£ million

	Sales			Orders outstanding*			New orders		
	Total	Home	Export	Total	Home	Export	Total	Home	Export
1966	164.0	118.9	45.1	110.7	78.0	32.7	160.1	114.1	46.0
1967	171.2	123.9	47.3	100.9	54.1	46.8	161.4	100.0	61.4
1968	168.5	113.5	55.1	116.1	61.7	54.4	183.8	121.1	62.7
1969	189.1	119.1	70.0	164.2	93.3	70.9	237.2	150.7	86.5
1970	218.6	137.3	81.3	159.2	86.8	72.7	213.9	130.8	83.1
1971	207.7	121.7	86.0	106.0	46.0	60.0	154.2	80.9	73.3
1972	184.7	111.6	73.1	113.3	55.7	57.6	192.0	121.3	70.7
1973	213.2	125.5	87.7	207.0	118.0	89.0	306.9	187.8	119.1
1974	251.0	148.2	102.8	263.7	134.5	129.2	307.7	164.7	143.0
1975 p	301.1	165.4	135.7	190.4	98.8	91.6	227.7	129.6	98.1
1974 1st quarter	55.1	34.1	21.0	232.5	126.5	106.0	80.6	42.6	38.0
2nd quarter	56.1	33.0	23.1	263.3	139.7	123.6	86.9	46.2	40.7
3rd quarter	63.5	38.4	25.1	276.1	143.3	132.8	76.3	42.0	34.3
4th quarter	76.3	42.7	33.6	263.7	134.5	129.2	63.9	33.9	30.0
1975 1st quarter	79.6	47.7	31.9	239.3	114.9	124.4	55.2	28.1	27.1
2nd quarter p	70.4	39.7	30.7	228.9	110.2	118.7	60.0	35.0	25.0
3rd quarter p	70.5	35.6	34.9	208.6	100.3	108.3	50.2	25.7	24.5
4th quarter p	80.6	42.4	38.2	190.4	98.8	91.6	62.3	40.8	21.5
1974 January	15.0	9.3	5.7	215.4	120.2	95.2	23.4	11.5	11.9
February	18.1	10.7	7.4	227.5	124.8	102.7	30.2	15.3	14.9
March	22.0	14.1	7.9	232.5	126.5	106.0	27.0	15.8	11.2
April	16.6	9.8	6.8	245.8	129.7	116.1	29.9	13.0	16.9
May	20.2	12.1	8.1	255.3	136.3	119.0	29.7	18.7	11.0
June	19.3	11.1	8.2	263.3	139.7	123.6	27.3	14.5	12.8
July	23.2	13.8	9.4	269.1	140.2	128.9	29.0	14.3	14.7
August	18.0	11.1	6.9	273.9	142.8	131.1	22.8	13.7	9.1
September	22.3	13.5	8.8	276.1	143.3	132.8	24.5	14.0	10.5
October	27.7	15.1	12.6	273.4	142.3	131.1	25.0	14.1	10.9
November	27.7	15.9	11.8	267.2	139.6	127.6	21.5	13.2	8.3
December	20.9	11.7	9.2	263.7	134.5	129.2	17.4	6.6	10.8
1975 January	22.2	13.1	9.1	262.7	133.0	129.7	21.2	9.6	11.6
February	27.2	16.3	10.9	252.7	124.4	128.3	17.2	10.2	7.0
March	30.2	18.3	11.9	239.3	114.9	124.4	16.8	8.3	8.5
April p	24.4	13.4	11.0	239.0	114.2	124.8	24.1	12.7	11.4
May p	24.7	14.0	10.7	236.1	113.7	122.4	21.8	13.5	8.3
June p	21.3	12.3	9.0	228.9	110.2	118.7	14.1	8.8	5.3
July p	22.0	10.5	11.5	222.6	108.2	114.4	15.7	8.5	7.2
August p	21.2	11.6	9.6	220.1	106.5	113.6	18.7	9.9	8.8
September p	27.3	13.5	13.8	208.6	100.3	108.3	15.8	7.3	8.5
October p	26.9	13.8	13.1	200.2	99.2	101.0	18.5	12.7	5.8
November p	26.4	15.1	11.3	189.7	95.2	94.5	15.8	11.0	4.8
December p	27.3	13.5	13.8	190.4	98.8	91.6	28.0	17.1	10.9
1976 January p	27.2	15.0	12.2	190.1	95.5	94.6	26.9	11.7	15.2
February p	27.8	14.1	13.7	181.5	89.7	91.8	19.2	8.3	10.9
Three monthly totals									
December 1975-February 1976	82.3	42.6	39.7	181.5	89.7	91.8	74.1	37.1	37.0
September 1975-November 1975	80.6	42.4	38.2	189.7	95.2	94.5	50.1	31.0	19.1
December 1974-February 1975	70.3	41.1	29.2	252.7	124.4	128.3	55.8	26.4	29.4
Percentage change latest three months on:									
1. Previous three months	+2	+1	+4	−4	−6	−3	+48	+20	+94
2. A year earlier	+17	+4	+36	−28	−28	−28	+33	+41	+26

p = provisional.
* The values for orders outstanding relate to the ends of the periods shown.
Due to rounding, constituent figures may not sum to their respective totals.

the last three months, at 26 per cent higher than a year earlier, are still well below the level of 1973-1974.

Recent trends for machine tools

The latest statistics now available for the first two months of 1976 show that the total sales in current value terms in the three months December 1975 to February 1976 continued to reflect a sustained rate of total deliveries, rather than a steady growth following the downward trend in the first half of 1975. Total sales, at £82 million for these last three months, were 17 per cent higher than a year earlier but reflect an easing back in the volume of completions. Export sales, however, at £39 million for this period, were 36 per cent higher than corresponding period a year earlier and suggest a moderate increase in volume in spite of price increases.

The intake of net new orders from the overseas markets in these last three months showed a considerable increase of 94 per cent over the extremely low level of the previous three months, which was the lowest since the third quarter of 1972. The 26 per cent increase over the same period a year earlier suggests that ground is now being held. New contracts from the home market also showed a slight improvement: 20 per cent higher in value terms over the previous three months and 41 per cent higher than a year earlier. The overall intake of new orders (net of cancellations) confirmed this moderate recovery, and at £74 million it was 48 per cent higher than the previous three months and 33 per cent over the same period a year earlier.

It is too early to tell whether the recent increases in the orderbooks, after an all time low, represent the turning point predicting the recovery in the contracts which is normally associated with the upturn in manufacturing investment. So far this increase in new orders has only slowed, and not reversed the downward trend of orders-on-hand. The steady rate of deliveries both at home and abroad has depleted the orderbooks which at the end of February 1976 stood at £181 million, the lowest since 1972, 4 per cent lower than three months previously and 28 per cent lower than a year earlier. In terms of current activity, home orders-on-hand at the end of February were equal to less than six months home deliveries, and export order books could sustain the recent sales activity for about seven months.

Steel consumption and stocks: provisional figures for first quarter 1976

Consumption of finished steel in the first quarter of 1976 is provisionally estimated to have been 3.98 million tonnes (5.37 million tonnes ingot equivalent) seasonally adjusted, the highest estimated consumption since the first quarter 1975.

The provisional level of deliveries from UK producers to consumers and stockholders is estimated at 3.02 million tonnes; imports were 0.83 million tonnes. Stockholders are estimated to have increased their stocks slightly during the quarter and total deliveries to consumers are estimated to have been 3.83 million tonnes.

Consumers are estimated to have reduced their stock by 0.15 million tonnes. This, added to the deliveries to consumers of 3.83 million tonnes gives the estimated consumption of 3.98 million tonnes. The increase of nearly 0.02 million tonnes in stock held by stockholders produced a fall of 0.13 million tonnes in the combined stocks held by consumers and stockholders.

Turnover of the motor trades in the first quarter of 1976

Turnover of the motor trades in the first quarter of 1976 was 21 per cent more than in the first quarter of 1975. New vehicle sales in the first quarter of 1976 were 27 per cent higher than in the first quarter of 1975 and used vehicle sales were 31 per cent higher. On the same comparison other sales and receipts (which include sales of petrol, oil, tyres, spares and accessories, and receipts from servicing and repairs) rose by 14 per cent, the same increase as in the previous quarter.

Notes

The statistics are of turnover at current prices, Movements therefore include the effect of price changes, including changes in purchase tax before the second quarter of 1973, the introduction of VAT and car tax from the second quarter of 1973, the introduction of VAT on petrol from the second quarter of 1974, and subsequent changes in the rates of VAT. The turnover includes transactions between dealers in addition to final sales. Vehicles include commercial vehicles as well as private cars and motor cycles.

The estimates for Q2 1975 and for the year 1975 have been revised because additional information from late returns has now been included.

The figures are not seasonally adjusted.

The returns made by a voluntary panel are used to project the figures of turnover in a base year (1972) obtained in a comprehensive inquiry to motor traders.

Index number of turnover per quarter at current prices (including purchase tax or VAT and car tax

Percentage change compared with a year earlier in brackets 1972 = 100

	Total turnover	New vehicle sales	Used vehicle sales	Other sales
Turnover in 1972 (£ million)	(8,109)	(3,089)	(1,373)	(3,647)
1972	100	100	100	100
1973	111 (+11)	110 (+10)	102 (+2)	115 (+15)
1974	119 (+7)	106 (−3)	100 (−2)	137 (+19)
1975 (revised)	142 (+19)	121 (+14)	127 (+27)	166 (+21)
1972 1st qtr.	95	94	100	93
2nd qtr.	105	109	107	101
3rd qtr.	102	101	103	104
4th qtr.	98	96	90	102
1973 1st qtr.	117 (+23)	126 (+34)	119 (+18)	109 (+17)
2nd qtr.	110 (+5)	110 (+1)	103 (−3)	113 (+12)
3rd qtr.	114 (+12)	111(+10)	108 (+5)	119 (+15)
4th qtr.	102 (+4)	93 (−3)	80 (−12)	118 (+16)
1974 1st qtr.	108 (−8)	102 (−20)	87 (−27)	120 (+10)
2nd qtr.	122 (+11)	112 (+2)	106 (+3)	136 (+20)
3rd qtr.	126 (+11)	110 (−1)	111 (+3)	146 (+22)
4th qtr.	121 (+18)	102 (+10)	95 (+20)	147 (+24)
1975 1st qtr.	137 (+27)	127 (+25)	116 (+33)	152 (+27)
2nd qtr. (revised)	148 (+21)	129 (+15)	136 (+27)	168 (+23)
3rd qtr.	151 (+19)	128 (+17)	139 (+25)	175 (+20)
4rd qtr.	133 (+10)	101 (0)	117 (+23)	167 (+14)
1976 1st qtr.	165 (+21)	161 (+27)	152 (+31)	173 (+14)

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Turnover of the catering trades in March

Catering turnover, at current prices and after seasonal adjustment, increased in March after being virtually unchanged for the two previous months.

The total turnover of the catering trades in the first quarter of 1976 (again, at current prices and after allowing for normal seasonal adjustments) was nearly 3 per cent more than in the fourth quarter of last year.

Recent percentage increases compared with a year earlier (not seasonally adjusted) for the main kinds of business are as follows:

		All caterers	Licensed hotels and holiday camps	Restaurants cafes and fish and chip shops	Public houses	Canteens
1975	4th quarter	17	16	13	20	14 r
1976	1st quarter	13	15	9	14	17
	March	13	12	8	14	16

r = revised figure.

Turnover for all caterers in the first quarter of 1976 was over 13 per cent more than in the same quarter of 1975. The largest increase was over 17 per cent for canteens whilst the smallest increase was 9 per cent for restaurants, cafes and fish and chip shops.

Value of catering trade turnover

Seasonally adjusted
1969 = 100

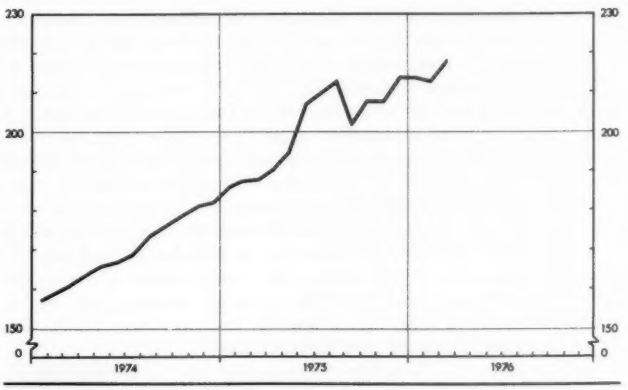

TABLE 1 Turnover of all caterers seasonally adjusted

Index numbers of turnover per week† 1969 = 100

		Value at current prices (turnover in 1969 – £2,533 million)
1969		100
1970		108
1971		118
1972		131
1973		148
1974		170
1975		201
1973	1st quarter	142
	2nd quarter	146
	3rd quarter	150
	4th quarter	153
1974	1st quarter	159
	2nd quarter	166
	3rd quarter	173
	4th quarter	180
1975	1st quarter	187
	2nd quarter	198
	3rd quarter	208
	4th quarter	210
1976	1st quarter	216
1975	January*	186
	February	188
	March*	188
	April	191
	May	195
	June*	207
	July	210
	August	213
	September*	202
	October	208
	November	208
	December*	214
1976	January	214
	February	213
	March*	218
1975	October-December	210
1976	January-March	216
Percentage increase		3

† The monthly periods consist of four weeks except those marked * which are of five weeks. The March 1976 period was the five weeks from 29 February 1976 to 3 April 1976; the March 1975 period was five weeks from 2 March 1975 to 5 April 1975. The series are now finally rebased using the detailed results of the large scale inquiry into the catering trades for 1969. A full report on the 1969 inquiry was published in November 1972 under the title 'Catering Trades 1969: Statistical Inquiry' (HMSO, 32p net).

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17	Arrangements for preferential trade between the Channel Islands and the United Kingdom.
49	Temporary importations: international co-operation.
104	ATA Carnets.
112	Authorised hours for Customs work at ports, airports and in long rooms and charges for attendance given at the request of merchants.
112A	Charges for attendance given at private premises at the request of merchants.
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172	Hydrocarbon Oils: drawback of Excise Duty.
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221	Duty relief under the Import Duties Act 1958, and pre-financing of Common Agricultural Policy Export refunds.
224	Beer exported on drawback as merchandise: examination and sampling.
241	European Economic Community: Compensatory Levy.
275	Documentation of Exports for Statistical Purposes.
276	Customs Entry forms in the C273 Series: Guidance on their completion.
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750B	Community transit – Extension to cover Austria and Switzerland.
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800 (Aug 1975)	The European Economic Community. Common Agricultural Policy: Customs procedures in respect of export refunds, levies and licences.
810	EEC Preferences – Free Trade Agreements between the EEC and the EFTA countries.
810A	EEC Preferences – EFTA Countries. Simplification of the documentation system described in Notice 810. Introduction of universal form of movement certificate EUR 1.
811	EEC Preferences – Greece.
812	EEC Preferences – Turkey.
813, 813B	EEC Preferences – Israel.
817	EEC Preferences – Tunisia.
818	EEC Preferences – Egypt.
819	EEC Preferences – Cyprus.
820, 820A	EEC Preferences – Lebanon.
821	EEC Preferences – simplified procedure for sending evidence to EEC customers about the origin of goods.
825	The ACP/EEC Convention of Lomé: tariff preferences.
830	Arrangements between Denmark and United Kingdom.

Index to statistics and organisational information published regularly in 'Trade and Industry'

A = annually M = monthly Q = quarterly 6M = every six months.

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Air transport: trade by air (6M)	28 Nov. 1975
Balance of payments:	
current account (M)	This week
trends in invisible transactions	16 Apr. 1976
(*see also* Overseas trade of the UK)	
Bankruptcies *see* Insolvencies	
Business names and limited partnerships (A)	30 Jan. 1975
Capital expenditure: manufacturing, distributive and service industries (Q)	2 Apr. 1976
By regions	27 Feb. 1976
Catering trades turnover (M)	This week
Census of production (A)	2 Apr. 1976
Chemicals industry activity (Q)	2 Apr. 1976
Companies:	
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liquidity (Q)	12 Mar. 1976
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Construction work overseas (A)	17 Oct. 1975
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Energy trends (M)	7 May 1976
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British Film Fund Agency returns (M)	7 May 1976
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Footwear industry: production, orders and deliveries (M)	7 May 1976
Foreign exchange: official reserves (M)	9 Apr. 1976
Foreign trade: industrial countries' production and trade (Q)	9 Jan. 1976
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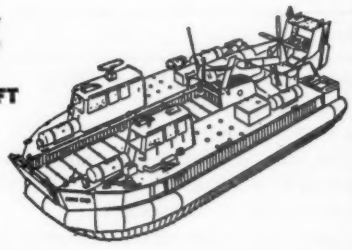

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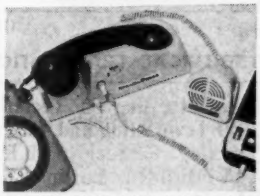

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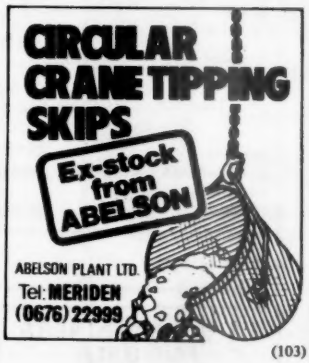

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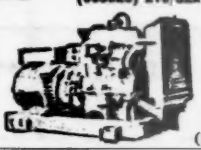

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